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THURSDAY NOVEMBER 30TH, 2017

CADOXTON CHRISTMAS CHEER!

IN AND AROUND Bridgend IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

RHOOSE for a Cosy Village Christmas

Cowbridge carer earns silver award

LEFT: Cowbridge carer Tracy Davies with her award.

A MOTHER-of-two has been honoured with a silver award for her work caring of elderly people in their own homes in Cowbridge.

Tracy Davies, who works for Home Instead Senior Care, travels round in the car she calls her 'mobile office' looking after clients in Cowbridge.

Her kind heart and dedication to duty earned her a place in the finals of the Wales Care Awards, the industry's most sought-after gongs, at Cardiff City Hall.

A former nursery nurse, she was recognised in the 'Promoting Fulfilled Lives' category, which was sponsored by Boots Healthcare.

She said: "I felt so honoured just to get through to the finals and would have been thrilled with a bronze award. To win silver was a very proud moment."

She was nominated by colleagues who describe her as a 'role model for what care should be'.

Day-to-day, her job sees her helping clients lead independent lives by shopping, cleaning, and cooking, but that's not all.

She has stepped in to support families when a relative has died and has delayed taking her own holidays when clients are ill.

Tracy said: "Some need help with their personal care so making sure that is done with dignity and respect is really important. I try to see the 'person' and get to know my clients as individuals."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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Christmas comes to town!

WITH pomp and circumstance, and fun and frolics – as well as a red Massey Ferguson tractor driven by an elf – Christmas rolled into Cowbridge last week for the annual Reindeer Day switch-on of the festive illuminations.

It was billed as being "bigger, better and brighter" than before, and this was no idle boast.

There were floats galore, more, people are sure, than previous years, and Santa and reindeer put in appearance at the event organised by Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, which was supported by local businesses and by residents from the town and beyond its walls in their multitudes.

The weather was festively crisp and clear, there was lots of good cheer and some drank mulled wine, others beer.

Hats, gloves and scarves, as well as an impressive array of snowman costumes and beards that to the touch didn't feel quite real, were on display.

For more great photos by Glyn Evans, turn to page 4.

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• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

PLANE SPEAKING ON ACCESS ROAD

IN response to Mr Whitton's letter in last week's GEM, clearly the ambiguity of the written word has struck once more.

To clarify, and to try to keep this in as simple terms as possible to avoid further ambiguity, while Barry and Glamorgan desperately need road improvements to ease the daily strain on commuters, I have at no time condoned, nor supported, the plan for a Northern Access Road to St Athan.

To refer back to my letter last week: 'The site opened in the late 1930s, and never had a need for a specific road to it, because aircraft tend to fly into bases for maintenance.'

Again, by way of clarification, my point was that the Aerospace Business Park at St Athan should be supported, or I can see it becoming an industrial park and housing. That would be a major loss to the region.

If the Welsh Assembly want to do something useful for a change, then perhaps they could address the daily nightmare for thousands of Vale residents that is the commute to and from Culverhouse Cross.

I hope that clarifies in as simple terms as possible.

Ade Pitman, Barry.

MP put animals at risk with 'reckless vote'

LAST week in Parliament, Alan Cairns voted for a clause that declared in law, animals (other than humans) are incapable of feeling emotion or pain.

In doing so, he has put at risk all the legislation built up over the years to prevent cruelty to animals and animal exploitation.

The clause in question has been added into the EU Withdrawal Bill to make sure that once the UK leaves the EU, any laws that have an assumption that animals can have feelings or can feel pain will have to be repealed. This opens the door for the lifting of the ban on fox hunting, removes the need for compassionate treatment of livestock in transit or in the way they are slaughtered. It will even make it possible for people to bring into the UK big game hunting trophies which will put at risk creatures around the world such as giraffes and buffalo which are not protected by virtue of the fact that they are endangered, and are routinely hunted for sport.

This is the sort of thing we should be trying to stamp out, not encourage through changes in the law.

As a nation of animal lovers, this is an abhorrent development for the people of Britain and the people of the Vale need to know that their own MP has voted in favour of this barbaric clause. Just think about that next time you see him posing for a picture with a pony at an agricultural show or a dog in an animal sanctuary.

Graham Loveluck-Edwards, Rhoose.

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WHY CRITICISE WITHOUT FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE FACTS? ASKS READER

IT never ceases to amaze me how members of the public write to newspapers such as The GEM criticising local authorities without full knowledge of the facts, as in the case of the Barry Island Ferris wheel.

It appears to me the Vale Council planning department has dealt with the matter in as sympathetic and practical manner as could be reasonably expected. At face value it may seem to the lay person that the issue is a purely administrative one.

Planning, however, encompasses much more than visual amenity. Consider the statement issued by the authority, part of which I believe is very telling. Viz: 'In this spirit we would welcome the submission of a planning application for the Ferris wheel to ensure it is safely positioned.'

Was safety therefore a major concern of the authority?

Of course when a planning application is submitted the authority consults with statutory (must) and non-statutory (may) consultees. One can be assured that among such consultees will be those involved in public safety, such as fire, police and ambulance services as well as the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Without such consultations, can we, the public, be satisfied that the wheel was on stable and level ground solid enough to bear the weight imposed on it?

Was the wheel constructed and installed in accordance with guidance? Was the wheel capable of withstanding the strong winds which regularly blow into the south Wales coast?

Was there safe access and egress for emergency services, should there be need? Was there provision for public evacuation of the site in case of an incident involving the wheel?

Were proper risk assessments carried out?

I could of course continue with all the matters the bodies would consider and comment upon; but I hope the point is made.

The public surely have a right to know that when they pay for their children or grandchildren to go on the ride, the authorities have done all they can to ensure the safety of the loved ones.

Would those who bleat about over-zealous officialdom be happy for the council to ignore the planning requirements, and *hope* the ride was safe?

Would these same people absolve the authority from blame if an incident occurred which could have been prevented? No; they would be the first demanding an enquiry.

Whether there were any such issues or not, to dismiss this as an example of petty bureaucracy is crass, unworthy, and above all, grossly unintelligent; particularly when it comes from those who dabble in local politics – albeit at the lower end of the spectrum of power and influence.

There is only one guilty party in this. The fairground proprietor had a legal obligation to apply for planning permission.

Chris Goacher, St Athan.

Clarification on House of Commons vote

OVER the course of the last week, I have received hundreds of pieces of correspondence from constituents regarding the House of Commons vote on the New Clause 30 of the EU Withdrawal Bill.

Some public voices have suggested that this vote somehow signalled a weakening in the protection of animals. That is plain wrong. Voting against the amendment was not a vote against the idea that animals are sentient and feel pain. That is a ridiculous misconception.

During the debate, the Minister made it clear that 'animals as sentient beings' is already recognised as a matter of domestic law, primarily in the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

If an animal is capable of experiencing pain and suffering, it is sentient and therefore protected under this Act. As a result, the specific clause that was voted on earlier in the week was not necessary to ensure that animals retain their recognition as sentient beings or the subsequent protection.

We have been clear that we intend to retain and enhance our existing standards of animal welfare once we have left the EU. When we leave, all EU animal welfare law will be converted into UK law.

We will make sure that the same protections are in place in the UK and will consider further additional protections when the opportunity allows.

The Minister also stated that 'animals will continue to be recognised as sentient beings under domestic law' and that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will consider how the sentience principle might be better reflected in wider UK legislation.

I sincerely hope that this information has clarified the situation for those who were concerned regarding the meaning of the vote.

Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP, Barry.

Why no EIA for Biomass plant?

BARRY residents are shocked and dumbfounded at the recent decision by Natural Resources Wales that they are 'minded' to grant a permit to operate for the Biomass incinerator currently nearing completion at Barry Waterfront.

Its location next to thousands of homes and over a dozen schools is insane! Never mind a permit to operate, how was planning permission ever granted for this?

The truth is that it shouldn't have been, and wouldn't have been, if it had been subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) at the planing application stage.

Not having an EIA means important health and safety protections for Barry town have been ignored, including a non-technical summary for the public, an environmental protection plan, stringent monitoring, compliance and environmental auditing and crucially, decision making on whether to approve the plan or not and finding alternative sites.

The Town and Country Planning Regulations (2017) are clear: if you burn or have the capacity to burn over 100 tonnes a day, your plant is automatically classed as Schedule 1 and therefore an EIA is required.

The Biomass UK incinerator in Barry will burn 200 tonnes of waste wood per day. Surely, common sense (as well as the law!) tells us that Biomass UK must be made to provide an Environmental Impact Assessment before they are allowed to operate?

Yet somehow, Biomass UK managed to avoid being classed as a Schedule 1 project requiring an EIA, even though they burn double the amount needed to qualify.

Now they are in a position to put pressure on Natural Resources Wales to approve their near-completed incinerator without complying with UK law on EIA.

It beggars belief! It is clear that planning was granted with insufficient information because of the absence of EIA information.

Essential protection has been denied to Barry town – including to its most vulnerable population; expectant mothers, growing children and babies, elderly people and sick people suffering with asthma, COPD and other breathing difficulties.

All these people have been let down by the failure to make Biomass UK provide an EIA for their incinerator.

A public enquiry into how this scandalous situation has come about needs to be called for.

Alvine Westerland, Barry.

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL DECEMBER 7)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
30 Thur	03.09	8.4	15.36	8.9
01 Fri	03.59	9.2	16.27	9.5
02 Sat	04.52	9.8	17.17	10.0
03 Sun	05.41	10.1	18.03	10.3
04 Mon	06.28	10.4	18.55	10.5
05 Tues	07.17	10.6	19.42	10.4
06 Wed	07.59	10.4	20.32	10.3
07 Thur	08.51	10.2	21.18	9.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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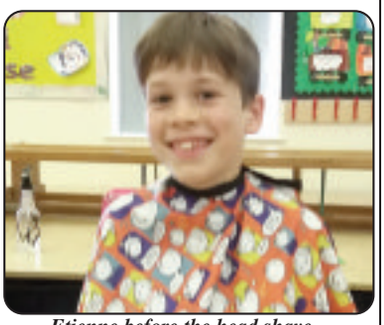
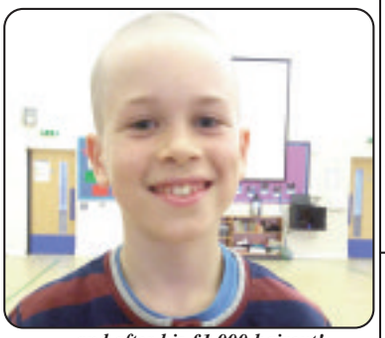
Etienne has braved the shave!



Etienne before the head shave...



... and after his £1,000 haircut! (That's how much he raised, not what it cost.)

ETIENNE LANGLOIS (10) went through with his pledge to have all his hair shaved off in a bid to raise funds for this year's BBC Children in Need.

On November 17, barber Leah Mordecai from *Barbers@nathanielcarsales*, came to Llangan Primary School to carry out the deed, in front of a packed main hall. The whole school had gathered to cheer Etienne on as his hair relentlessly fell to the floor.

The generous support Etienne has received has allowed him to raise an astonishing £1,012.80, more than three times his initial target of £300.

"Watching the BBC Children in Need program on TV was very different this year, because I could see how the money I raised was going to help all these children who are not as lucky as me," he said.

Etienne would like to thank all the kind people who contributed to his fundraising effort.

In addition, his mother Karine wishes to extend a special thank you to all her students and the staff of Cowbridge Community College for their amazing generosity, as well as to the children and staff at Llangan Primary School for their donations and for having made this an unforgettable occasion.

KL

The Interact students supporting the quiz event.

Rotary quiz night to support charities

COWBRIDGE Rotary held their annual quiz night on November 18 in support of local charities.

With 30 teams taking part in Cowbridge Town Hall, the Rotary Club welcomed back familiar faces, and some new ones. The quiz teams were made up of brainy, knowledgeable, and well-informed good citizens from Cowbridge and the Vale.

All the teams were playing in support of a charity of their choice and there was great competition to see the team that would come out on top.

The quiz was played over 12 rounds with a wide variety of questions and it was amazing to see the broad knowledge of the quiz teams. At the end of the evening a clear winner emerged as the 'Quizzy Rascals' from the Goodwin Partnership, with 'Aspirers' from Pontyclun Athletics second and 'Thatshallot' from the Cowbridge Allotment association third.

Rotary president David Harris thanked all the quiz teams for taking part and the young members of Interact for their administration support, before presenting the first, second and third teams each with a cheque in support of their charities.

The charities that benefitted from the evening were, Marie Curie, Scope and Wales Air Ambulance. All attending had enjoyed a good fun evening and learned a new acronym of PAW, 'Parents are Watching', enhancing their knowledge of social media!

CHRISTMAS BEGINS WITH A HOLY WALK!

ON December 8 and 9 at 6.30pm, a little part of Cowbridge becomes Bethlehem!

By popular demand, the Cowbridge Walking Nativity is returning for its fifth year, with two nights to choose from.

The Nativity, with parts all played by adults drawn from all the churches in Cowbridge, is set in the atmospheric surroundings of Old Hall Gardens and the Physic Garden, starting outside the Library.

The event unfolds with Mary and Joseph slowly making their way to Bethlehem in search of somewhere to stay. As they go, the audience follow and carols are sung at each stage of the journey.

After pausing to sing a carol, we move along to meet the innkeepers as they turn the visitors away from their warm lodgings. We see the shepherds when an angel speaks to them of a great new birth. Later, we watch the wise men following a star and join them on their long journey.

In the Physic Garden, we watch as the wise men meet Herod and see the drama unfold as he learns of a new king.

Finally, we arrive at the stable and celebrate the joy of Christmas and happiness at the birth of Jesus.

The Walking Nativity is free of charge, as are the refreshments that will be provided at the end of the Nativity journey. It is suitable for all ages, young and old and lasts approximately three-quarters of an hour.

So grab a torch, wrap up warmly – it is an outside event and will go ahead whatever the weather, although the refreshments may be served inside.

For more information, call Leonie Hain on 01446 775048.

BINGO EVENING

A SOCIAL evening of Bingo will take place at the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall on Wednesday, December 6.

Doors open at 7pm and the Bingo starts at 7.30pm prompt.

Book launch at The Bear

Eiry Palfrey and Danny Grehan.

A NEW Welsh language novel on the life of Iolo Morganwg, *Myfi Iolo* was launched by Gareth Thomas in the Georgian ballroom at The Bear Hotel in Cowbridge on November 23.

The launch was chaired by Carys Whelen with readings by actors Eiry Palfrey as Peggy and Danny Grehan as Iolo Morganwg.

Myfi, Iolo by Gareth Thomas (£9.99, Y Lolfa) is available now from The Cowbridge bookshop.

Cowbridge Traders' Christmas Party

THE Chamber of Trade's annual bash will be hosted at The Duke of Wellington on Thursday, December 14 from 7pm.

Tickets are £10, available from Sylvia Williams Chemist, and includes food and entertainment by local legends Aubrey Parsons and Paul Dark. All proceeds will be donated to Christmas Lights fundraising.

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Christmas countdown

NOW, who doesn't like a Christmas parade and the grand festive lights switch on?

Clearly, in Cowbridge, everybody does as seemingly the entire town piled on to the streets to soak up the pre-Yule atmosphere in the frosty majesty of the winter landscape.

Young and old, families and friends all took part in one of the most popular traditions of the season, which is best enjoyed in the warm embrace of kith and kin.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone 07791 228684
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ABOVE:
A very good view alongside The Bear Hotel's bear!
Presumably, they cleared it with Elf and Safety!

Generous store shows its Christmas spirit

by TIM CHAPMAN
07891 690798 or email
tim.chapman@
glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Faye Ruckley with 'Annie'.

THE generous decision of a Barry children's store to give away a £200 'reborn baby doll' called Annie after it was returned following an incident in the shop has gone viral.

The store's CCTV footage on Wednesday, November 22, appeared to show a woman putting the doll in a pram before leaving the store.

The shop's owner Faye Ruckley issued an appeal on Facebook for the return of the doll.

There was a huge reaction with 55,000 views of the incident – and in due course the doll was returned.

Instead of insisting on further action, Faye decided instead to give Annie away free to someone who would treasure her.

Faye made a film which she posted on Facebook saying: "If you think you can give Annie the perfect home, to be considered all you have to do is 'Like' our Facebook page Ruckleys and comment on why she should come and live with you – and share the post."

She was staggered when 75,000 people viewed the video. Dozens and dozens of comments were left by people who desperately wanted to give Annie a home – some with heart-breaking reasons.

Faye said: "The reaction has been amazing!"

The Mayor of the Vale, Cllr Janice Charles, told The GEM: "I think what Ruckleys has done is a wonderful thing – full of the spirit of Christmas which is about giving and forgiveness.

"From something that was regrettable, something good has happened."

There's still time to win Annie if people go to: www.facebook.com/ruckleys. The winner of Annie will be decided by the Vale Mayor and Faye later this week.

Colwinston and Llysworney WI news

AT the November meeting of Colwinston and Llysworney WI, vice president Chris Gill welcomed everyone and explained that president Liz could not be with us as she had become a granny twice over in the past week, with both her daughters giving birth to boys, and she was in London visiting one of the new arrivals.

Chris reminded everyone of the dinner in December, the Christmas Tree festival in Holy Cross where a tree will be on display from the group and the Glamorgan carol service in the Brangwyn Hall on December 4, when one of the members, Kath, would be singing in the 90-strong choir.

Zoe Scourfield instructed members in the making of a Christmas decorative wreath which was enjoyed by all, and the results were quite amazing. **AS**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Christmas fair

CAOS Musical Society are holding their annual Christmas Fair on Saturday, December 2 in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall from 10am to 12.30pm.

Stalls, tombola and raffle. Admission is free and refreshments are £1 for tea/coffee and a mince pie.

Councillors' surgery

LLANTWIT First Independent councillors will be holding a surgery at the Heritage Centre, Town Hall, Llantwit Major on Saturday, December 2 from 9.30am until 11.30am. Residents who have any issue to raise are welcome to attend.

Cowbridge litter pick

THE Love Cowbridge/Hate Litter group is holding its monthly litterpick on Sunday, December 3 from 10am for an hour or so.

Volunteers always welcome – please meet behind the town hall.

Rosemary's memories of working with Sir Harry

NOVEMBER'S meeting of Llantwit Major Probus was held on November 14 in Illtud's 216.

President Colin Hawkins welcomed members, thanked them for their attendance, and updated members on the progress of one of our committee members and past president Roger Gullett, who had come off worse after an altercation with a screwdriver while on DIY duties.

Having been hospitalised for some four weeks, he was now home, and progressing slowly in the right direction.

He then commented on the success of the annual lunch, held at St Athan Golf Club and attended by 45 members and guests, where we enjoyed a three-course meal and were regally entertained during and after the meal by local singer Aubrey Parsons.

Our speaker for November was Rosemary Scadden, a former researcher for both BBC and ITV who gave a talk entitled 'The Four Seasons – Aspects of Wales'.

She had worked with Sir Harry Secombe on *Highway,* the TV series which ran from 1983 to 1993 and covered the length and breadth of Britain with a show which was a mixture of hymns and chats taking in the scenery from various locations at the same time.

Rosemary took us on a wonderfully illustrated tour of Wales with scenes captured throughout the year on her own camera, and as the title of her talk suggests in all weathers through each season.

We travelled from Cardiff to all areas of Wales including Anglesey, Snowdonia, Teifi estuary, Worm's Head, the Gower, Chepstow, Penarth Pier, Broughton and Dunraven, Roath Park, St Fagans, Cold Knap and back to Insole Court.

A remarkable scenic journey across Wales in an hour which was much appreciated and warmly applauded.

A vote of thanks was given by Matthew James and the raffle was won by Neville Farthing.

Next month's meeting on December 12 is our Christmas dinner with our entertainment provided as usual by our own Eric Sparks. **MM**

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Literary couple both have new books out

Top poetry award goes to Cowbridge writer

by PHILIP IRWIN

A COWBRIDGE poet has been awarded a prestigious literary prize, the Roland Mathias Poetry Award, at the recent Wales Book of the Year awards, at the Tramshed, Cardiff.

John Freeman lives in Trehyngyll, with his wife Vivien, and he received the award for his latest collection of poems, entitled *What Possessed Me*.

Published by Worple Press, his collection was described by the Literature Wales judges as "exploring childhood memories and lifelong relationships with humour, poignancy, and preternatural clarity".

John has a considerable body of work behind him. Since 1975, he has had nine collections of poetry published, and one of literary criticism, but this collection struck a chord with the judges.

By coincidence, Vivien also has a book out, a historical novel set in and around 1900, entitled *Rose Alleyne*.

In her case, it is her third published novel, and she has written poetry too. She and John have the distinction of being included in the same poetry anthology, entitled *The Tree Line*.

John grew up in London and, after studying at Cambridge University, came to Wales to lecture at Cardiff University in English Literature and creative writing.

Meanwhile, Vivien grew up in Hertfordshire, took a degree in the History of Art, and also taught creative writing.

They married in 2006, and settled in Trehyngyll.

It's clear that writing is a passion for John, who started in his teens and has, as he says, never stopped.

Collections of his work have appeared at regular intervals.

In a review from *www.gwales.com* (with the permission of the Welsh Books Council) Caroline Clark describes John's style as "deceptively relaxed, even casual, sometimes close to a diary entry or a conversation.

"Memories of experiences, both distant and recent are captured with great charm, poignancy and sharpness, to illustrate the fact that 'we live in so much more than just the present'."

Vivien's novel is set in her home town, Ware in Hertfordshire, more than 100 years ago.

It's the product of a great deal of research, and the titular character, Rose Alleyne, is 16 and facing choices, with tensions between her family loyalty and her own desire for a new life, after her mother dies in childbirth – her 20th pregnancy.

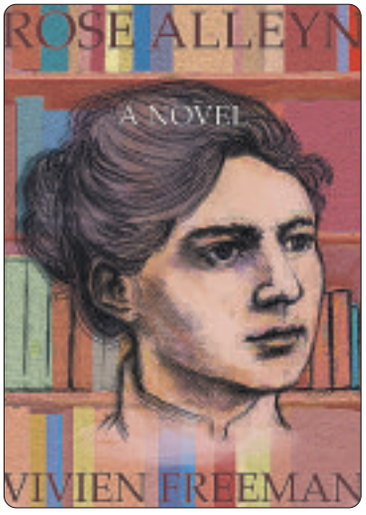
Vivien said: "It's about class, gender and relationships and, although I did that research, I haven't overloaded the book with historical detail.

"It's certainly not a dry read, and I think modern-day readers will relate to her."

John's prize-winning book, *What Possessed Me*, is published by Worple Press (*http://www.worplepress.com*)

Vivien's novel, *Rose Alleyne*, is available through Amazon and Kindle.

John and Vivien Freeman.



Rose Alleyne, *Vivien's book.*

ABOVE: John Freeman receives the Roland Mathias Poetry Award.

Carer's award

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Away from work, Tracy (45), has teenage boys, aged 18 and 15, to care for.

She added: "I suppose I am a natural carer, it comes easy to me so working for Home Instead is something I really enjoy."

Home Instead operations director Stephanie Davies said: "Tracy embodies the ideal 'care giver' that I would place with any family member. Her work is constantly exceptional.

"She has received several 'Team Member of the Month' awards and is always thinking of ways to improve the service we provide, even little things."

The awards recognise the industry's unsung heroes. Its main sponsors were Ontex Healthcare and Barchester Jobs.

Presenting Tracy's award was Meri Huws, Welsh Language Commissioner for Wales.

Mario Kreft, the Chair of Care Forum Wales, said the standard of entries was extremely high. He added: "There are only winners, so it is only fitting that the finalists receive a gold, silver or bronze Wales Care Award.

"I trust that they will continue to inspire those around them as role models and encourage others to aspire to even greater heights in the months and years to come."

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is
NANCY DAVIDGE
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

News from Llangan Primary

THE children of Llangan School had an exciting Children in Need Day, raising £121 by wearing their own clothes for the day.

In the afternoon they all cheered year-six pupil Etienne Langlois having his hair shaved off, a very brave young man.

On Wednesday, December 6 the younger pupils are visiting the Brecon Mountain Railway to visit Santa.

Saron Chapel Treoes

THIS popular event will be held in the Treoes village hall on Sunday, December 3 from 10am – 12.30pm. There will be a variety of stalls with lots of interesting Christmas gifts to be bought, including books, raffles and lots more.

On Saturday, December 2 from 7.30pm – midnight Dennis Lang, singer-comedian will entertain in the Treoes village hall with a Christmas theme. Tickets £5.

St Canna's Llangan

THIS year's carol service will take place on Sunday, December 10 at 11.15am. Families are assured of a warm welcome.

Proud to be Welsh

I REFER to the rugby match last Saturday between Wales and New Zealand.

Unfortunately, Wales lost, but my word they put up a tremendous fight.

Fish and chips fun in St Hilary

ST HILARY villagers raised £350 towards the upkeep of the village hall at an evening of 'Fish and Chips and Fun' on Saturday, November 25.

The highlight of the evening was a highly entertaining 'Mr and Mrs,' featuring two celebrity village couples – Bill and Gill Clay and Carolyn and Dermott Lyons, who between them had achieved more than 100 years of married bliss.

Keeping things local, the fish and chips were supplied by the Cowbridge Fish Bar and the wine was from the Noble Grape.

LL

QUILTERS' SALE RAISED £2,100 FOR CANCER HOSPITAL

A BIG thank you to all who turned out for the Velindre fundraiser on November 18, braving the horrible weather.

Members of the needlework community remembered lost friends by making, baking, brewing teas and coffee and sold raffle tickets in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge.

Volunteers from Velindre and Cowbridge Lift Group provided information.

The generosity of the community provided lots of lovely hand crafted raffle prizes and happy winners.

All the hard work of the volunteers and generosity of those who attended raised a total of £2,100 to continue the wonderful work of Velindre Hospital in Cardiff.

HILARY CARNEY

Children tackle plastic in the ocean

Llantwit residents of all ages helped at the beach clean.

MANY of us have watched Blue Planet 2, and been appalled to see how much harm our wasteful lifestyle is causing to life in the ocean.

Some Llantwit folks decided to do a little bit to try and improve things by cleaning the beach. About 17 turned out, young and old, even people with bad backs and dodgy knees. How wonderful that one young lady chose to clean the beach, rather than going to the reindeer parade.

All who came worked really hard, and said how much they enjoyed it.

With the useful kit provided by Keep Wales Tidy, we collected loads of small to medium items, and a few large ones, mostly plastic, which would otherwise have gone into the sea.

There'll be another opportunity to enjoy some bracing December weather next Sunday, December 10, at Gileston beach. Wear suitable clothing and footwear, and work gloves. Time to be confirmed, so watch for posts on the Llantwit Major Hub on Facebook, or contact me on 07804 624795.

ANNIE PAINE

The (Christmas) lights are switched on in Cowbridge

COWBRIDGE went for the big finish last Sunday (November 26) as the new and improved Christmas lights were switched on.

Santa stayed on to help, and Princess Elsa from Frozen (*left*) kept the crowd entertained with some fine singing.

TV weather presenter Ruth Wignall came along to switch the lights on, and she delegated the task to her 13-year-old daughter (*above*)!

PHOTOS by MIKE WILCOCK

ABOVE: Ruth Wignall.

BELOW: Santa meets Elsa!

Llancarfan flower arrangers make wreaths for Bobath

The Llancarfan Flower Arranging group were visited by Alun Cairns.

LLANCARFAN Flower Arranging Group met recently to make and prepare a selection of hand-made Christmas wreaths.

The wreaths have been made to order, with over 80 already being purchased by members of the surrounding community. At £20 per wreath, the money raised will be donated to Bobath Therapy Centre for children with Cerebral Palsy.

The group, run by Mary Grey, met at the Llancarfan Village Hall, with mulled wine, mince pies and a selection of festive treats.

Throughout the day, the members arranged the wreaths while listening to a playlist of Christmas hits.

They also received a visit from local MP Alun Cairns who joined in with the wreath-making.

He said: "After the group's fundraising success last year, I was delighted to hear that they would be engaging in further wreath arranging this Christmas.

"Watching the skill and care that goes into the design of these wreaths, it is easy to see why these decorations are highly popular with residents.

"Congratulations to Mary and the group, not only for hosting a truly fun-filled festive day, but also for supporting a thoroughly deserving cause."

Out and about – enjoying Reindeer Day

PHOTOGRAPHS (below) by ISABELLA JONES

Instagram: @isabellajones

ABOVE: Santa and his reindeer.

REINDEER DAY in Cowbridge has become an immensely popular day out for the family – ever since the town's chamber of trade arranged to bring the reindeer down from Scotland.

From the reindeer's point of view, it was probably warmer than the Cairngorms and, as usual, they were the centre of attention for local children.

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A visitor to Barry Island

Possibly a curled octopus (Eledone cirrhosa).

In recent weeks, there have been reports of considerable unusual activity in the octopus community in Wales.

A video taken in west Wales showed a large number of octopuses taking an evening stroll along the beach.

Today, Monday, Barry resident Julie Phillips found one out and about in daylight, at Barry Island.

Julie told The GEM: "Whilst walking my Springers Sky and Patch on Whitmore Bay beach, I came across this stunning Octopus. A first for all of us, amazing!"

She added that it was almost a foot wide when spread out, and that she had placed it back in the water.

CAROLS, READINGS AND POEMS AT ST LAWRENCE

THE old former St Lawrence Church at Fort Road, Lavernock will be hosting a candlelit hour of carols, readings and poems at 3pm on Sunday, December 3.

There will be a warm welcome for all who would like to attend and the service will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Marconi Inn across the road. Free parking on the left of Fort Road just before the church. Enquiries to Rev Margaret Stark on 02920 701303.

Biomass consultation lasts until January 22

NATURAL Resources Wales (NRW) has launched another consultation after announcing that it plans to issue an environmental permit to allow Biomass UK No 2 Ltd to operate its gasification facility in Barry.

It is the fourth public consultation undertaken by NRW on the application and will run until January 22.

NRW will share details of the assessment it has made, and copies of the draft permit conditions it would enforce.

The consultation also offers local people, businesses and professional organisations an opportunity to bring forward new information and to understand how NRW came to its draft decision.

NRW says it is satisfied that appropriate measures will be in place to allow it to operate without damaging the environment or the health of local people.

Nadia De Longhi, operations manager for NRW, said there had been close scrutiny of the application and that in the event the permit is granted the company would be closely monitored.

"We know that people still have concerns about this facility and I want to reassure them that we will only grant the permit once we are sure that the applicant can meet the strict standards required.

"We have closely scrutinised the application, and where we've needed to, we've asked for more detail and clarification to help us reach this decision.

"Throughout this consultation we'll be happy to consider any new evidence or information that is relevant to our decision. If we do go ahead and grant the permit, we will closely monitor the company's operations to make sure it continues to meet these strict conditions for as long as it operates."

NRW emphasised it is legally required to grant an environmental permit if a company can demonstrate that it can operate within environmental legislation.

The permit will regulate the control of emissions, handling and storage of waste, general operational management and fire risk. It does not cover issues such as the location of the plant, emissions from traffic, volume of lorries travelling to and from the site and origin of the wastes.

The Vale's AM, Jane Hutt, who is opposing the application, said the consultation period, which spans the whole of the festive period and reaches well into the new year was welcome.

"At the DIAG meeting I chaired on November 13, attended by NRW chair Diane McCrea, I called for an extension of the consultation period.

"I welcome this positive response, following the deeply disappointing news that NRW was minded to issue a permit for the incinerator in Barry.

"This is strongly opposed not only by the people of Barry but also statutory consultees.

"I am pleased that NRW has agreed to attend a public meeting in the new year. I once again stress my objection to Biomass No 2. There is overwhelming and mounting evidence against the granting of this permit."

The issue will take centre stage at the next meeting of Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth on Tuesday, December 5 (7.30pm in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry).

The group says it will be working with the Docks Incinerator Action Group to encourage as many people as possible to write to First Minister, Carwyn Jones, asking him to exercise his powers by telling NRW to stop the process.

Copies of NRW's assessment and the draft permit conditions are available electronically on its website.

They are also available to view at Barry Library, Barry Town Council or the NRW offices on Newport Road and in St Mellons.

If people would like to submit comments, they should be sent to Natural Resources Wales, Permitting Service Consultations, Cambria House, 29 Newport Road, CF24 0TP or by email to permittingconsultations@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk.

SEE LETTERS PAGES 2 AND 28.

RFC talk

TICKETS are still available for Dr Jonathan Hicks' talk on 'Wales and the First Air War 1914-18', co-hosted by Griffin Books and All Saints' Church, Penarth on Sunday, December 3.

Dr Hicks will give an overview of Welsh involvement in the Royal Flying Corps, Royal Naval Air Service and Royal Air Force during the First World War, with stories of famous Welsh flying aces.

The event takes place in the church at 2.30pm. Tickets £5 include refreshments and are available from Griffin Books on 02920 706455, the All Saints' parish office (02920 703170) or via Ticketsource.

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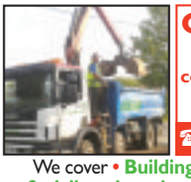
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Plans afoot for centenary drumhead ceremony

FOLLOWING a hugely succesful and generously supported Poppy Appeal, for which figures will be available soon, Barry Royal British Legion are delighted to announce that we will be staging a Festival of Remembrance with a full drumhead ceremony to mark 100 years since World War One ended.

Taking place on Saturday, September 22 at 7pm in the Memo Arts Centre, the evening will feature the South Wales Police Band and Barry Male Voice Choir with other special guests.

Tickets are available through the Memo box office or website priced at £12 or £10 for concessions (OAP, U/16 and RBL members) with all profits going to the Poppy Appeal. We are advising early booking to avoid disappointment.

This event is one of several planned to mark the Centenary of the ending of 'The Great War, The War to End All Wars'.

Teresa Goodwin
Barry Royal British Legion

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CAVC collects 'Beacon' for apprentice project

A PIONEERING programme to provide vocational career routes to 14 to 16-year-olds led by Cardiff and Vale College has won a national award for further education initiatives.

CAVC's junior apprenticeship programme beat the competition from the rest of the UK's Further Education (FE) institutions to win the Association of College's Beacon Award for Transition into Post-16 Education and Training, sponsored by the Skills and Education Group.

This latest accolade sits alongside the Beacon Pearson Award for Promotion and Delivery of Apprenticeships Cardiff and Vale College won in 2016.

The Beacon Awards recognise colleges that have displayed imaginative and innovative approaches to teaching and learning in the UK's FE sector.

Now in their 24th year, the Beacon Awards represent the best colleges across the country that adapt to meet the needs of local employers and the career needs of their students.

Jointly funded by Welsh Government Creative Solutions, CAVC, Cardiff Council and Cardiff schools, the Junior Apprenticeship programme was launched in September 2016 to increase the number of young people in education, employment and training.

Offering year-10 and 11 pupils the opportunity to study full-time in a college setting from the age of 14 for a future career, the programme was the first of its kind in Wales.

This summer saw the first cohort of year-11s all successfully graduate and secure a place on a higher level course at the college or an apprenticeship.

At the end of the first year, junior apprentices who hadn't attended school for a whole year were achieving 90 per cent attendance.

Of the Cardiff learners who were identified as the most vulnerable when they started, 75 per cent are no longer considered to be in that category based on their attendance, engagement and progress.

The Welsh Government is now encouraging other colleges to roll out similar junior apprenticeship programmes across Wales.

The Beacon Award judges were impressed by the way junior apprentices allows young people full time access to vocational courses alongside English and maths GCSEs.

They saw the initiative as providing a more meaningful, vocational route at a younger age that motivates and accelerates learners to progress into post-16 provision and eventually a fulfilling career.

CAVC principal Kay Martin said: "We are absolutely thrilled to have won the Beacon Award for Transition into Post-16 Education and Training.

It is a testament to the hard work and determination shown by everyone who works on the sector-leading junior apprenticeship programme, from college, Cardiff Council, the Welsh Government and local schools and I am hugely proud of their achievement.

"There has been comprehensive 14-16 learning pathway provision operating in colleges across the UK for the last 25 years offering many learners half-day or one-day vocational programmes.

"The junior apprenticeship programme takes that model significantly further.

"It helps young people who might have thought that school wasn't for them by offering alternative career routes in a fresh environment, providing challenges and chance to learn in a way they can identify with.

"We will continue to support schools while creating a culture of success and raise the aspirations for learners who are most at risk of disengaging from mainstream education."

RSPCA LAUNCHES WINTER APPEAL

RSPCA Cymru is braced for thousands of calls this festive season as it launches its 'Kindness at Christmas Appeal' to help care for abused, neglected and sick animals.

During December last year and January (2017), 5,932 incidents were reported to the RSPCA in Wales with 141 of those happening across Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

New figures from the animal welfare charity show that during the same period (December 2016/January 2017), the charity received 118,799 calls across England and Wales – 1,916 calls a day (79.8 calls an hour, 1.3 calls a minute.)

From poorly, unwanted pets callously dumped on the streets to animals and wildlife deliberately cruelly treated, RSPCA inspectors are preparing to see heart-breaking cruelty and neglect this festive season.

The RSPCA across England and Wales expects to take in around 19,000 animals in need this December and January and desperately needs your help to care for them.

RSPCA Cymru superintendent Martyn Hubbard said: "It's a sad fact that every day at work throughout the year can be tough for our inspectors and animal welfare and collection officers, but winter really does come with its own challenges and issues.

"During the festive season alone last year, we rescued hundreds of animals, many of whom had been cruelly abandoned, injured or abused.

"But we also saw so many acts of kindness by animal lovers who cared for animals that had been abandoned, to those who reported suffering animals to our cruelty hotline or volunteers caring for animals in our centres and branches.

"We are asking animal lovers across the country to show kindness this Christmas by supporting our winter appeal."

To help the RSPCA to continue rescuing, rehabilitating and rehoming animals in desperate need of care, and to support the charity's 'kindness' campaign, visit www.rspca.org.uk/winterappeal.

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FREEMASONS DONATE TO LOCAL BLOOD BIKES WALES

BLOOD BIKES Wales, the 'fifth emergency service' after the police, fire and ambulance services, and the RNLI, provides a vital service to the NHS transporting blood supplies, plasma, documents and other items between hospitals outside of weekday hours, on weekends and bank holidays.

This service, which is 100 per cent and run totally by volunteer riders, saves the NHS substantial sums which can be used for frontline patient care.

A new motorcycle had been donated by the Masonic Benevolent Fund of South Wales, and this will be going into service immediately.

The photograph shows Blood Bike Wales Area committee Andrew Morgan of Bonvilston (left) with the new bike, together with trustees of the Masonic Benevolent Fund of South Wales Simon Francis, Martyn Ridge (treasurer) and Patrick Pattison.

In presenting a cheque for £6,000 to Andrew (himself a Freemason and very dedicated to the work of Blood Bikes), Patrick said: "We are very pleased on behalf of our committee of trustees, and the Freemasons of South Wales, to make this donation to such a worthwhile and vital service to the community of South Wales."

Community Christmas meal

CADOXTON Youth Project and Barry Communities First will host a free Christmas meal (and food bag) on Saturday, December 2 at Victoria Park Community Centre, Church Road, Barry (CF63 1JY) from 6pm – 9pm.

Reservations, by note only (including numbers) to: Cadoxton Youth Project (Rita's Cafe), 97 Main Street, CF63 2HL **by November 29**. 60 places only, children under 16 must be accompanied. Santa colouring competition and children's fancy dress competition too!

PACT meeting

WHY not come along to Penarth Police Station (front desk) on Thursday, November 30 when PCSO Leighanne Norris will be available for a chat between 4.30pm and 5.30pm?

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ALY and allies try to tackle sheep worrying

THE two-day 'Animals, Land and You' event took place at the Royal Welsh Show's Winter Fair on Monday and Tuesday this week, aiming to "help pet owners, dogs, livestock and other animals live harmoniously alongside one another".

Animals, Land and You (ALY) is co-ordinated by the Animal Welfare Network for Wales, a coalition of organisations which shares the aim of improving welfare standards for animals across the country.

The importance of the event was highlighted by police statistics which stated that between May 2014 and May 2015 there were 108 separate incidents of livestock attacks recorded in north Wales, most of which involved sheep (North Wales Police). Across the UK as a whole, in 2016, 15,000 sheep were killed, and 49 dogs destroyed, as a consequence of sheep worrying (SheepWatch UK).

Nic De Brauwere, chair of the Animal Welfare Network for Wales, said: "We all want to see a rural Wales where pet owners, dogs, livestock and other animals live harmoniously alongside one another – but so many challenges exist.

"We know 15,000 sheep across the UK in 2016 were killed through sheep worrying alone. Clearly, there's a need for animal welfare groups to collaborate, and share vital information at events like this, which can keep dogs, livestock and other animals safe around each other."

Lesley Griffiths, Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs, added: "The Welsh Government and the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group are dedicated to delivering 'continuing and lasting improvements in standards of animal health and welfare', and are delighted to work with the Animal Welfare Network Wales's ALY initiative to help achieve this."

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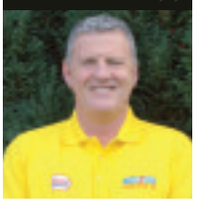

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HOLTON ROAD CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND FUN WEEKEND IS A REAL BLAST

THE Holton Road illuminations and two-day Christmas event in Barry proved a huge draw last weekend.

There were stalls with Christmassy gifts, entertainers, performers on stage, Ice Central, donkeys, Santa, and of course, the big switch-on of the lights.

Local photographer Jodie Woolley captured these festive images on Saturday evening.

The event was an opportunity for local shops to demonstrated the huge number of goods and services available on Holton Road as part of the 'Shop Local' campaign.

As you can see from Jodie's images, the Barry public responded with real enthusiasm.

ALL PICTURES BY JODI WOOLLEY.

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Family release statement after guilty verdict

AFTER 20-year-old Joseph Fettah from Rhoose was found guilty at Cardiff Crown Court of causing the death of Jenna Miller by dangerous driving, Jenna's family released a statement thanking the police, witnesses and the Crown Prosecution Service.

ABOVE: Jenna Miller.

The events leading up to the court case took place on Cardiff Road, Barry, in September last year.

The family statement said: "We as a family are pleased that Joseph Fettah has been found guilty of causing Jenna's death by dangerous driving.

"It was extremely difficult for us to have to sit through the trial listening to him trying to squirm out of his responsibilities.

"We wish to thank all witnesses who assisted and subsequently attended court, and we would also like to express our gratitude to South Wales and Gwent police forces and the Crown Prosecution Service for all the work that has gone in to this thorough investigation.

"We now look forward to overcoming the final hurdle when the two offenders will be sentenced, and hopefully handed a lengthy prison term."

Detective Constable Matthew Lindsey, of the Serious Collision Investigation Unit, said: "Our thoughts are with the family of Jenna Miller, who have shown great dignity and courage throughout the court proceedings.

"I'd also like to pay tribute to my colleagues at both South Wales Police and Gwent Police, who have all worked determinedly to investigate this case and secure justice for the family and friends of Mrs Miller.

"This tragic case highlights the dangers of racing on our roads. Young people, and indeed drivers of all ages, need to understand that if you speed, you're putting your own and other people's lives at risk. Whether it is racing along a seemingly quiet road, or driving just a few miles-an-hour over the speed limit, it is a risk that is simply not worth taking.

"In this particular case, the reckless actions of two thrill-seeking drivers have robbed two young boys of their mother, and family members and friends of a loved one."

Jamie Oaten, from Barry, had earlier pleaded guilty to causing death by dangerous driving.

FINE FOR UNLICENSED LANDLORD

AN unlicensed Barry landlord has been fined more than £1,000 after being found guilty at Cardiff Magistrates Court.

A legislation that introduced the landlord registration process and the requirement for landlords and agents, who let and manage rental properties in Wales to be licensed, came into force on November 23, 2015.

The legislation made provision for those who needed to comply to do so within a year.

Self-managing landlord Damian Cross of Rhodfa'r Gwagenni, Barry was found guilty of failing to become licensed for letting and management activities for a property at Beaconsfield, Romilly Road, Barry.

Mr Cross had registered the property but not applied for a licence.

He failed to pay a Fixed Penalty Notice for his non-compliance, or submit a licence application or appoint an agent.

He was fined £660 for two offences under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, and ordered to pay court costs of £543 and a £33 victim surcharge.

Cllr Hunter Jarvie, Vale Council Deputy Leader and Member of the Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee, said: "It has been over a year since the deadline for all landlords with properties in Wales to become registered, and it is not acceptable that there are landlords and agents who still try to work around this law.

"There is no excuse for a commercial agent not to be registered and licensed, and the recent prosecution of an unlicensed Barry landlord, is proof that we are taking action. I encourage any landlords who use a commercial agent to check they are Rent Smart Wales compliant."

Go to **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news... **www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk**

Will 'calamitous' A465 overspend of 23 per cent affect Dinas bypass?

THE Conservatives say they fear an estimated £50m overspend on upgrades to the A465 road between Abergavenny and Hirwaun could have a knock-on affect on other road projects.

The Welsh Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport, Ken Skates, confirmed a 23 per cent overspend figure in a written statement early this week.

The Conservatives said the potential cost to taxpayers could be as much as £50 million.

Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies, said: "These delays could cost in the region of £50 million, and the Cabinet Secretary needs to clarify where the money is coming from.

"If the money is to be drawn from the department's existing resources, which transport projects will have to give way in order to pay for this calamity?"

One Vale councillor said there could be a negative knock-on for potential projects in the area such as Dinas Powys bypass.

Cllr Vincent Bailey said: "This shambles could end up costing taxpayers £50 million. Just imagine what that could do for transport infrastructure projects in the Vale – like the Dinas Powys bypass."

A Welsh Government spokesman told The GEM: "The Welsh Government is currently in dispute with Costain on a number of matters around the allocation of risk in the contract to ensure they are only paid what they are contractually entitled to.

"The overspend on this project will be apportioned between Costain and Welsh Government strictly in accordance with the contract terms."

A spokesman for Costain said: "We do not comment on specific commercial discussions in relation to our clients but continue to work closely with the Welsh Government to deliver this complex project."

by GEM REPORTER
GOT A STORY?
Call us on 01446 774484 or email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

'Arctic' plunge

ON Sunday, December 3 at 11am, Sarah Rees Brown will plunge into the Bristol Channel at Barry Island, raising money for the charity Cwtch which organises parties and provides gifts for children over the festive season.

Anyone willing to donate or volunteer (to help with the parties, dive into the sea or both) can call 07907 439708 or drop the cash at Beauty Basics, Broad Street, Barry.

MUSIC FOR MIND

MIND Cymru is holding its first Christmas concert in the President's Lounge at the Principality Stadium at 4pm on Sunday, December 3.

The concert will feature the Melingriffith Community Band and award-winning Youth Brass Band, who will be performing a variety of traditional Christmas classics as well as some more modern songs.

Tickets £10 for adults, £8 children and concessions (under-5s are free), and are available from www.mind.org.uk/christmasconcert.

Charity coffee mornings

THE Armed Forces charity, Woody's Lodge, will hold a coffee morning on November 30 from 10am–12pm in Barry.

The event will be held in King Square Art Central Gallery and all are welcome. Entry will be £1.50 and all proceeds will go towards the Vale Mayor's charity, Woody's Lodge.

Woody's Lodge, based in the grounds of HMS *Cambria* in Sully, was launched to commemorate Marine and Special Boat Service member Paul Woodland from Penarth, who died in 2012.

It aims to provide veterans with access to charities, advice, counselling and a place to socialise with other veterans.

Its motto is: 'Giving Space and Time' and the idea is to have a place under one roof where veterans of any age or background from the Vale or Cardiff can meet and connect with the help they require, be it social, mental or practical.

It is a special, unique quiet and safe space for veterans to meet with support agencies and to socialise at the same time.

Barry Ladies' Choir will hold a coffee morning on December 7 from 10am–12pm in King Square Art Central Gallery. Entry will be £1.50 and all proceeds will go towards Barry Ladies' Choir.

The choir has been an important part of the local music scene for at least 60 years. It was formed in the 1930s as the Great Western Railway Choir, but changed its name in that period.

Recently, the choir has performed at many functions including concerts at community centres, hospitals and residential homes. We always welcome new members and if anyone would like to join us, we meet every Tuesday night at 7pm in Crossway Methodist Church, Court Road, Barry (CF63 4ET).

The Mayor of the Vale, Cllr Janice Charles, will hold a coffee morning on December 14 from 10am–12pm in King Square Art Central Gallery. Entry will be £1.50 and all proceeds will go towards the Mayor's charities, including Woody's Lodge.

The Barry and District Soroptomists work at local, national and international level to create opportunities to educate, empower and enable women and girls and to strive for equality for all.

The Soroptomist vision is committed to a world where women and girls together achieve their individual and collective potential, realise aspirations and have an equal voice in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide.

Coastlands Family Church Baby Basics project volunteer-led project aims to support new mothers and families who are struggling to meet the financial and practical burdens of looking after a new baby.

It provides much needed essentials and equipment to mothers and families who are unable to provide these items for themselves.

PETERSTON CHRISTMAS FAIR AND MARKET

PETERSTON village market will be holding their annual Christmas market and craft fair on Saturday, December 9 from 10am – 2pm in Peterston-super-Ely village hall.

Please come along and start your Christmas festivities here, entrance is free and you are sure to find something to interest you.

We will have a fabulous range of crafts, homemade cakes and produce, an expanded range of jams, jellies, chutneys and edible Christmas wares. We have a plant stall and fresh Christmas decorations made by members of the Flower and Garden Club.

Entertainment is provided by our primary school choir, St Peter's handbell ringers and is followed by carol singing with the choir to get us in the festive mood, along with mince pies, mulled wine, homemade soup and hot turkey rolls.

All profits are donated to the hall for upkeep and further improvements. There is still room for one or two more craft stalls; contact Pat Cadwalladr on 01446 760267 for further details.

NEWS IN BRIEF

GFWI Carol Festival

THE GFWI Massed Choir will perform with Elgan Llyr Thomas, Llwyth y Llan Children's Choir and Huw Tregelles Williams on Monday, December 4 at The Brangwyn Hall, Swansea at 7pm (doors open at 6pm).

The conductor will be Alun Tregelles Williams and tickets (£13.50) are available from Federation House, 13 Courtland Place, Port Talbot (SA13 1JJ) on 01639 881588.

Llantwit Major Scout Groups Christmas post

THERE is still time (just) to support your local Scout groups (and save loads on postage) by buying lots of stamps, which can be bought and posted at: Wick village post office; The Choc-olate Box; Toy Master; Co-Op; Spar; Filco; and Vale Gymnastics.

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BARRY HIGH STREET ENTERTAINS AT CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

THE High Street traders' Christmas event is a key date in the Barry calendar, and this year, they held an indoor event which meant there was no need for a road closure.

As you can see from these images, there was lots of entertainment in the shops.

Most importantly, Father Christmas put in an appearance for the many excited children.

Aaron Jamieson (and mother) was one of many people to visit Santa at Nina Estate Agents.

Jasper Blakeley and Frank Haschka of Sideshow Events with Fay Blakeley of Homemade Wales.

Barry Brass Band entertained the crowds.

Santa and his helpers at Nina Estate Agents.

Billboard Ensemble carol singing.

The Butterflies team.

Caricaturist Picasso Griffiths with Louise Hawkins.

AM congratulates Gibby Green Fingers project

VALE AM Jane Hutt visited the Gibby Green Fingers project to congratulate Nicky Vickery and her team of volunteers for gaining charitable status and taking forward the site in Gibbonsdown.

Ms Hutt said: "The Gibby Green Fingers Charity has given new hope to this 'green haven' in Gibbonsdown, welcoming teams of volunteers and I was delighted to see that the tree I planted nine years ago has grown beautifully! Thank you Nicky for your vision and determination."

A history of magistracy for Barry Men's Forum

ON the fourth Thursday of November, members of Barry Men's Forum welcomed Lynne Tippett, who gave a very interesting talk on the history and work of magistrates in England and Wales.

The first record of magistrates was during the reign of Richard I, known as The Lionheart, who were charged as Keepers of the Peace and to enforce the laws of the land.

As the years passed, magistrates effectively became the first incarnation of local government, acquiring a range of administrative duties such as the administration of the Poor Laws, maintenance of the transport, infrastructures such as bridges and highways and the regulation of weights and measures.

In addition, they had powers over hanging, whipping and transportation of offenders to distant lands from the early 1600s until the 1830s.

Until 1919, magistrates were all male but the first female was Ade Summers, who was the Mayor of Stalybridge at the time. Now there are more female magistrates than men.

PDGG

Tax Help for older people

TOP's income tax surgery will take place at Roz Couzens' Chiropody surgery, Unit 4, Commercial House, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major (CF61 1RB) on December 4, from 10am – 12pm.

Free professional advice to older people on a restricted income. No appointment necessary. If a home visit is needed, call the helpline on 0845 6013321 or 01308 488066.

CADOXTON CHRISTMAS CHEER!

We wish you a very merry Cadoxton Christmas

THERE was a time when Cadoxton was its own village – separate from Barry – and the area and its local traders retain that independent feel.

Family businesses on Barry Road, Church Road, Main Street and Vere Street have lasted for decades. People love an established business with a familiar, friendly face.

Carol Brown of Roy's Toys on Main Street is a case in point. The business has now been trading for 35 years and is a firm local favourite.

On Friday when The GEM visited Carol, she was dealing with a constant stream of shoppers regulars, passers-by, and parents who had just picked up the children from school.

The shop is an Aladdin's cave of toys – of course – but much more, with all 'the necessaries' for the festive season such as Christmas cards, wrapping paper, tags and gift bags.

Carol keeps up to date with all the latest toy trends so customers can be assured that she will either stock them or order them in.

She said: "The most popular toys this year are scooters. 'Five Nights at Freddy's', a video game, is also going well."

Despite all the high-tech offerings, it may surprise people to know that board games are still much in demand – and they're a great way of families having a fun time together over the holiday period.

Each year, Roy's Toys has its own Scout Christmas letter box. Deliveries take place across the Vale and Cardiff.

Carol said: "This year's deadline for the Scout post is for December 4, so people want to make sure their cards are in by that Monday."

Just around the corner at 7 Barry Road is Allison's Celebration Cakes.

Allison has been producing spectacular cakes for every sort of occasion since 1989.

Multi-tiered wedding cakes, special occasion cakes and birthday cakes – she does them all. Each one has its own style. Over the years she's also produced novelty designs as diverse as Star Wars, the Beatles at the Abbey Road zebra crossing, and dogs in their basket.

For people who love cake decoration and sugarcraft, Allison has all the catering ingredients and tools required – sugar flowers, marzipan, cake boards in different colours, cutters, ribbons, edible and non-edible decorations, and cookie cutters. She also does cake stand hire.

For those interested, the Barry and Cardiff Sugarcraft Club meets at St Mary's Church Hall at 7.30pm on the third Friday of the month.

At this time of the year, people's attention often turns to home interiors and help is at hand at the Curtain and Net Centre at 2 Church Road.

The business offers a wide range of services, including made-to-measure and ready-made curtains, and curtain alterations.

For those wanting a much-loved suite or item of furniture revived, there are services in re-upholstery, furniture repair, and cushion replacement.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

The Curtain and Net Centre has celebrated its 30th anniversary in Cadoxton.

For 28 years, Allison of Allison's Celebration Cakes has been producing special cakes for all sorts of occasions.

'STAR WARS BARBER' IN SPECIAL OPENING

Steve Cleaver of Steve's Barbers.

STEVE'S BARBERS on Vere Street – also known as the 'Star Wars Barber' due to the fantastic displays of movie memorabilia – will be open from 7am until midday on Christmas Eve for appointments only.

The shop is open six days a week, Monday to Saturday, 9am to 5pm, except for midday closing on Wednesdays and 3pm on Saturdays.

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, so Steve Cleaver, who has run the business since 1999, has made an exception to open up for customers on that day.

Customers don't mind waiting for their hair to be styled or cut at Steve's Barbers; they just sit back and enjoy looking at all the movie and sporting items Steve has accumulated over many years.

Steve books appointments and welcomes walk-ins.

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CADOXTON CHRISTMAS CHEER!

Compassionate support at a time of greatest need

'LYNDSAY ELLIS @ The Vale Funeral Service' is a family-run business with deep roots in the town.

Headed by husband and wife team, Lyndsay and Nicola Ellis, it incorporates 'W Spickett & Son' which was established in 1837 – it even operates from the same location at 181 Court Road. In fact, Spickett & Son is the oldest funeral director in Barry.

Lyndsay explained the company's ethos: "We can't make the pain of losing a loved one go away, but through our efforts our hope is to make the journey of grief less lonely and to alleviate as much pressure from the family as possible.

"From the moment a family contacts us, we are there for them every step of the journey."

Lyndsay and Nicola and the team have established an excellent reputation over the years.

A recent heartfelt testimonial read: "A big thank you to Lyndsay and the team for the brilliant service you provided. You took the stress away from us at this difficult time. You are above excellent, very professional and compassionate in what you do."

The business is well known for it support of local events and charity initiatives, and Lyndsay added: "We are very proud of being part of the Cadoxton and Barry community."

Lyndsay and Nicola are also delighted with excellent contribution to the business of Ben Hartery who is progressing to become a funeral director.

The telephone number for 'Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service' is 01446 407962.

For more information, go to: www.valefuneralservice.co.uk.

Carols in Cadoxton for Macmillan charity

THE ninth annual carol concert in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care takes place at Victoria Park on Friday, December 8.

It's a great opportunity for people to get into the Christmas spirit. The event is led by Julie Mahoney and the fabulous Barry Brass Band (BBB).

Carols begin at 6pm and there will be song sheets for everyone.

One of the organisers said: "Bring your best singing voice with you. Enjoy all your old favourites, bring the whole family, and your friends, and start to feel Christmassy!

"Rowena and the BBB team will have teas, coffees, cakes, buns, and warm soup and rolls – all ready to keep you warm and in good voice. There will be a fun raffle, tombola and lots of prizes.

The event is led by Barry Brass Band.

"All proceeds from the event will go directly to Macmillan, so come and sing, and support a very worthy cause. Last year we raised over £600, so let's see if we can beat it."

BS

Cadoxton Christmas

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

There's a free quote service, Monday to Friday.

The Curtain and Net Centre has celebrated its 30th anniversary in Cadoxton – more proof that local people love tried and tested family businesses.

CADOXTON CONSERVATIVE CLUB

Christmas Entertainment 2017

Saturday 2nd December

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Christmas Selection Box Appeal

Lyndsay and Nicola Ellis of...

...are calling out for donations of Xmas Selection Boxes for their Selection Box Appeal. All donations will be given to the local charity Vale Food Bank.

From now until Wednesday 22nd December donations can be brought to our office: Lyndsay Ellis @ The Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Cadoxton, Barry. 01446 407962

Barry Rotary support Llamau

Jeff Howells (Llamau support assistant), Jordan Jenkins (Llamau), Caz Davies (Llamau area manager), Ann Harry and Jill Osborne.

AS part of their ongoing commitment to supporting their local community, the Rotary Club of Barry have presented a variety of gifts to the Llamau 2017 Christmas Appeal.

Llamau supports vulnerable young people and adults in the Vale. President nominee Ann Harry and president Jill Osborne recently visited Llamau to meet some of the staff and residents and present the gifts.

These donations have been made possible thanks to the generosity of the general public supporting the Rotary Club's ongoing fundraising events.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Llamau Christmas appeal can contact Llamau at their office at 236 Holton Road, Barry (CF63 4HS) or call 01446 748853 or email jigso@llamau.org.uk.

Rotary has 1.2 million members (men and women) worldwide who form a global network of business, professional and community volunteers. The Rotary Club of Barry meets weekly in the Glenbrook on Thursdays at 6pm for 6.30pm.

If you would like further information speak to secretary Phil Hunt on 01446 720000 or look online at www.ribi.org.

Autumn and her kittens are looking for homes

Can you offer Autumn or her kittens a home? Photo by Sue Dobbs.

MOTHER Autumn and her kittens Acorn, Bramble, Conker and Maple looking for new homes this winter.

The gorgeous kittens are at the Cats Protection Adoption Centre in Bridgend, and will be ready to go to their forever homes from the New Year.

Anyone interested in offering a home to one of these kittens, or their mother, or to any of the other cats and kittens in the care of the Bridgend Adoption Centre, should contact 01656 724396 or bridgend@cats.org.uk.

Otis is looking for an active home!

OTIS is a fit nine-year-old Patterdale Terrier and despite his age, he still has bags of energy to burn, so he is looking for an active home.

He is a very bright lad and still loves to learn new tricks! He does enjoy his walks, having a good run off lead and playing with his toys.

Otis tends to prefer socialising with female dogs (he is a proper little charmer). He is house trained and can be left for a few hours. He can live with children 11 years and above and is missing his home comforts.

If you would like to know more about Otis, then contact Dogs Trust Bridgend on 01656 725219 or pop down to the centre at Court Colman CF31 4NG. You can also visit the website at www dogstrust.org.uk.

NFU ladies hold fashion show

A BIG thank you goes to the Barry store, Bon Marché for staging a wonderful fashion show with the NFU ladies as models.

Mrs Kay Gay thanked the ladies for their hard work, which was enjoyed by all.

Numerous raffle prizes were also won.

On December 13, the meeting of the NFU Ladies takes place at 7pm in Penllyn Church when a carol service will be held, followed by a party in Penllyn Village hall. Everyone should bring a plate of food.

RJE

Sophie raises money for Marie Curie

MISS Sophie Norris (22) of Barry recently held a charity event to help raise funds for the Penarth Marie Curie Hospice by selling Christmas lollipops.

In the process Sophie raised £50 towards the charity.

Back in April 2017, Sophie won the title of Miss Vale Of Glamorgan, and Marie Curie was her chosen charity.

Sophie continues to raise money for the hospice and in total has raised £450.

Sophie says she will continue to help and support Marie Curie and will raise vital funds for people with terminal illnesses.

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IN AND AROUND **Bridgend** IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

A busy and bustling Christmas in Bridgend

Don't forget your nuts at Christmas. Visit Riverside Hardware for the bolts, spanner, screwdriver, hammer, drill, Calor Gas heater...

Roast venison, Beef Wellington, or a game bird or two would make a change at Christmas. T & H Morris Butchers can supply it all.

BLACK Friday and 'Cyber Monday' are out of the way, meteorological Winter is nearly here and Advent advances inevitably towards us.

The panic buying – visit any supermarket between 8am and 9pm if you don't believe me – is a grim forewarning of what would happen in the days after a zombie apocalypse was announced. Car horns reach a cacophonous climax in car parks and tempers seem to be fraying.

Yes; it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

And yet, small oases of calm exist.

It's not that they are quiet, far from it in fact; they are busy, bustling paces, but – and here's the thing – they are accessible on foot, have a mix of independent shops and high-street chains and tend to have more cafes and restaurants for that all-important cup of the vital oolong than one could shake a stick at.

What are these places?

Why, town centres, of course!

The GEM has featured a number of them in recent weeks and now it is Bridgend's turn.

It's a pleasant town to walk around, has more history than many people realise.

For the Doubting Thomases out there, cross the old bridge, head up Newcastle Hill past St John's House (from about 1510 or so, I believe) past St Illtyd's Church to Newcastle Castle for a journey taking in around 1,000 years in five minutes.

In the town centre, lift your eyes from the shop windows for a second to look at some remarkable first and second-storey facades, telling the story of Bridgend's success.

As with many a town centre, it's had its dark days (time for the old line that "What the Luftwaffe didn't manage to destroy, the planning department achieved"), but its renaissance is advancing and deserved.

And then there's the river, a proper river coursing its way through the town, where salmonids leap and canny fly-fishermen catch and release them. A nascent cafe culture – Dunraven Place in the sun of Summer is a delight – is there, too.

But we're interested in Christmas, not Summer, and Bridgend is a hive of activity.

The lights were switched on to great fanfare last week, Santa Claus and his reindeer drew the crowds and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

At Carnegie House and elsewhere throughout the town centre on Saturday, December 2, will be a 1940s' Christmas event.

Expect candle- and stocking-making workshops, entertainment, re-enactment groups, children's crafts, walks and talks, but no doodlebugs, Nissen huts or the dreaded telegram.

Santa will be in his Carnegie House grotto on that and the two subsequent Saturdays from 10am to 4pm. There is a charge of £5.

And, on Saturday, December 9, Bridgend will turn white *on* the hour *every* hour with snow flurries and an ice sculpture. As they sang in *Frozen*, "Let it snow".

The Christmas chalets have proved popular. I was particularly keen to sample the wares of the Vale Cider pitch.

The mulled cider punch, containing the company's own cider and apple juice, as well as a warming mix of eight spices, was delectable on a crisp day.

Visit @valecider on Facebook for more info.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

Warming mulled Vale Cider. Cheers, lads!

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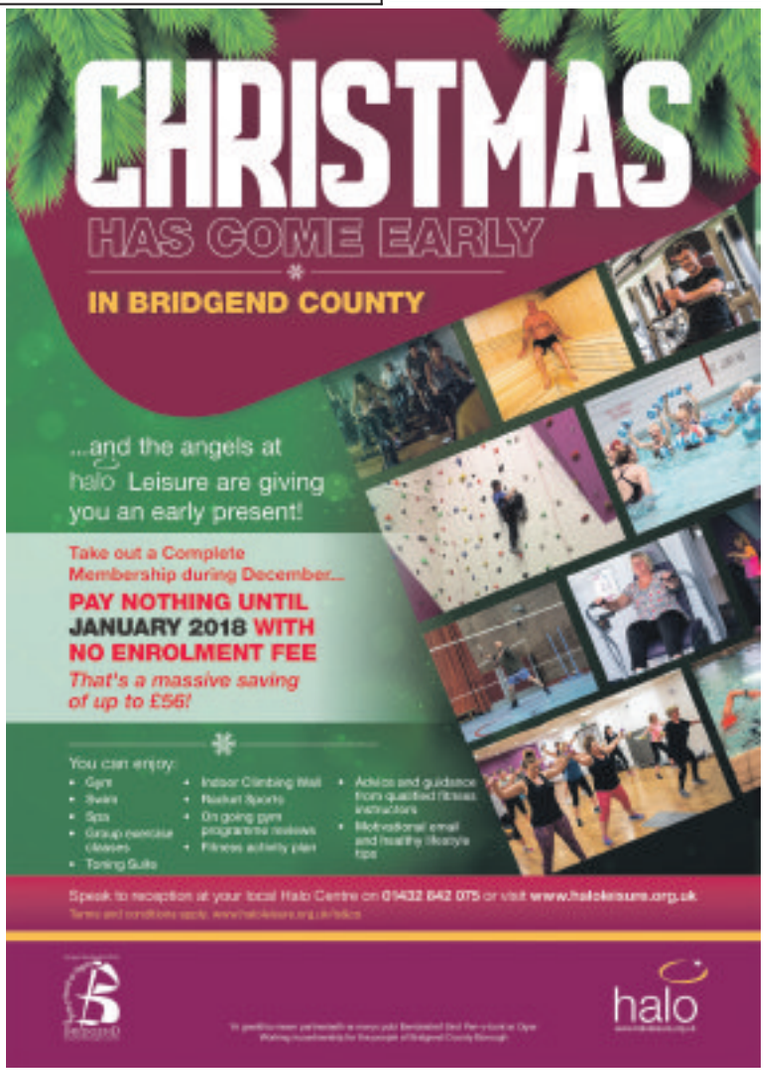

IN AND AROUND Bridgend IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

Christmas in Bridgend

Green Men at Theodore Sons & Daughters Reclamation and Building Salvage.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

Another way to warm my cockles was a quick visit to the **Taste of Thailand** (Facebook: Taste of Thailand Bridgend) stall, which also has a very successful couple of sites in the **indoor market**.

All the favourites are there, from *tom yum* (hot sour soup) to *gaeng ped* (red curry) and *gaeng massaman* to *pad thai*. Run by a lovely family, this is authentic Thai food. I should know; I lived in Thailand for nigh-on a decade.

But before stepping inside the market, a quick jaunt to the town-centre butcher, **T & H Morris**, and an Aladdin's cave of meaty delights.

"Everything is as local as possible," Tudor tells me as he makes up packs of venison from an estate hardly any distance away.

Local turkeys, lamb and beef are available, as well as a range of home-made sausages (the Welsh Dragon is my choice), sausage-meat for stuffing and dry-cured bacon are all produced.

Game, he confides, is growing in popularity for the Christmas feast, and venison as described, as well as game birds are on offer.

There is even free delivery, but call for details. T & H Morris Butchers, Dunraven Place. 01656 768620.

Into the market and I catch the aroma of Thai food and a full English breakfast, but no time to stop, sadly.

It's over to the **fruit and veg stall** for a quick chat with Martin Nagle, who tells me that fruit and veg boxes are a speciality, as are decorative fruit baskets.

Lifelike *faux* holly wreaths are on display but, he advises, "We'll have the real thing in next week".

There might even be mistletoe soon...

He can also deliver; call 07772 657296 or visit for details.

Over on his **pet stall**, Martin says that a loyalty-card scheme is proving popular.

"Our deal at the moment is for Burns Pet Nutrition," he begins. "Buy seven 2-kilogramme bags – ask for a loyalty card first – and get the eighth free."

A range of treats and gifts, including toys, collars and leads for the special pet in your life, is also available.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

Seasons opens its doors for Christmas 2017

SEASONS, probably Wales' largest Christmas store, opens it doors with all its new ranges for this coming festive season on the Brynmenyn Industrial Estate near Bridgend.

This truly unique Christmas store is a must see if you love everything 'Christmas'.

Now in its 17th year of selling Christmas products, this family business continues to expand with this year set to be the best ever.

The buyers at Seasons Christmas Outlet have yet again come up trumps scouring Europe and beyond sourcing thousands and thousands of exciting new items for their ever-growing army of customers. People young and old flock from all over the UK and abroad to see this truly sparkling magical store.

Seasons now stocks somewhere in the region of 20,000 Christmas goods, Christmas decorations, artificial trees and so much more, all under one roof. Browse Season's online store too, where items are also available to purchase on its impressive website.

There several spectacular display areas in the store. First stop for most visitors is its dazzling fibre optic and LED room, showcasing hundreds of indoor and outdoor items lit up.

Further inside you'll discover the stunning and popular Santa's Christmas Grotto, which always sells out and is now in its fourth year.

Earlier this year, Seasons' team of elves were busy redecorating Santa's home. The grotto's new makeover theme is surely set to delight Santa and his visitors once again.

To make a booking, go to the Seasons website and click the Grotto link to see available spaces on the calendar. **SS**

IN AND AROUND **Bridgend** IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

A brighter Bridgend Christmas

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

Martin's third stall in the indoor market is the **lingerie shop**, with a range of foundation garments, frillies, Cutty Sarks*, pyjamas, nighties and all sorts of other unmentionables.

Before leaving **Bridgend Indoor Market**, don't forget that the recently-rebuilt **Rhiw car park** offers free, yes, free, parking for the first two hours.

All the traders agree that this is a good idea, even though the free parking scheme will end in March 2018.

Just like Jack Hargreaves, I am heading out of town, although hardly into the rural wilds of the county.

First stop is **Theodore Sons & Daughters Reclamation and Building Salvage**.

Having already used the phrase 'Aladdin's Cave', I must employ another.

It is the King Solomon's Mines of reclamation yards, and for someone like me who prefers old to new, and knows that chaps like Denis Theodore have been 'recycling', 'reloving' and 'upcycling' since before the hipsters that use these words were born, it's like a toy shop.

Slates? Yep. Doors? But of course. A chimney pot? Not a problem. Finials and crests? More than you can shake a stick at. Woodburners, hearths and beams? Oh yes...

Theodore's – on North Road in Bridgend Industrial Estate – is the place.

If they don't have it, they can usually source it. If you have something to sell, they may wish to buy it.

I ask Denis about 'trends', and in addition to woodburners and fireplaces ("The things everyone was ripping out 30 years ago..." he says), the Green Man, a symbol of rebirth, is rather in vogue these days and enjoying its own second coming.

For the man who thinks he has everything, a quick visit to Theodore Sons & Daughters will prove them wrong. An ideal, and very different, shopping experience.

Call 01656 648936 or visit www.theodoreclamation.co.uk.

A slight change of pace, and time to reflect that, for some, Christmas can be a trial, especially those mourning and particularly if this Christmas will be the first following the death of someone close.

Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services are extending a warm invitation to join them for their first Christmas Memorial Service which will take place on Friday, December 8 at Salem Chapel, Pencoed at 7pm.

Amy Watkins tells me: "Christmas is a wonderful time of the year for many but also one of sadness for those who have lost a loved one.

"We hope that our Christmas Memorial Service will become an annual event and will help remind families who have suffered a loss of the warmth of shared Christmases past, of the brightest Christmases to come and the importance of fellowship and support.

"Our service includes the opportunity to place a remembrance star on our memorial Christmas tree or to light a candle."

The service will be led by Reverend Richard Roberts and there will be performances from soloist Claire Edwards and Cowbridge Male Voice Choir , which will also lead some carol singing.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

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Dragon Auto Works

IN AND AROUND **Bridgend** IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

A BIGGER, BETTER, BRIGHTER BRIGHTEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

Entry is free of charge and everyone will receive a warm welcome. Light refreshment will be served following the service.

Amy added: "Our chosen charity for this year's service is Y Bont, a purpose-built family centre situated on Ewenny Road, Bridgend that provides care and support to children with disabilities and their families. We will be having a collection on the evening for this wonderful charity."

For further information please contact Amy Watkins by email contact@melandronwatkinsfuneralservices.co.uk or telephone 01656 860545.

Over in pleasant Ewenny, Sam of the eponymous **Samantha b ladies boutique** tells me "It's time to get festive at Samantha b".

"It's the time of year to let our hair down and turn our attention to a more frivolous type of dressing. Whether you're a full on bling kind of girl or you prefer a more subtle look, we will have something to suit at Samantha b!

"Velvet is one of the biggest looks this season, from a classic black velvet tuxedo to sumptuous jewel-coloured dresses and tunics from Adini.We also have the LBD (little black dress) from Bianca and pomodoro and a lovely twist on the LBD from Pont Neuf, from glitzy, velvet, patterned all with sleeves, perfect for the party season or a cruise. There is also a lovely navy velvet jacket by Olsen, perfect for a more formal look, or dress down with jeans.

"If you prefer something a little more subtle and casual, still with a little sparkle come and have a look at some of the tops from Olsen, Bianca signature and Fransa, just lovely!

"If you are turning your attention to a lovely winter walk we have some lovely coats and gilets.

"For the hard to buy for friends and family we have a wonderful section of accessories, capes, scarves and lovely necklaces that are sure to please.

"If you're really stuck for an idea how about a voucher, allowing the lucky recipient to choose for themselves."

Sam added: "I really can't believe where this year has gone. I would like to thank all my customers for their continued support, this year we have helped to raise thousands of pounds for different charities through fashion shows and hope to do the same in 2018. Call in for a glass of sherry throughout December and look out for forthcoming dates.

Samantha b, 4 Wick Road, Ewenny, CF35 5BL. 01656 658388.

At **DragonAuto.Works**, I am told of the 'ultimate Christmas present for car lovers'.

That is quite a boast, and so I was intrigued to learn more. Read on.

"Forget the fluffy dice, smelly air fresheners or Autoglym car care kits (other brands are available), there is a much more exciting present that will really put a smile on their face; a performance tuning gift card.

"Performance tuning, or 'remapping' is the ultimate in kudos for someone who loves their car and wants the best from it. This is the process of modifying a vehicle to enhance the performance abilities.

"On modern vehicles, the engine control unit (ECU) contains the software programming to control the vehicle performance. Things like turbo boost or injection rate are all determined by the default settings on the ECU programmed by the vehicle manufacturer at point of production assembly.

"Vehicle manufacturers tend to de-tune their engine capabilities to comply with the multitude of emission regulations in the many different countries their vehicles are sold. Naturally, the manufacturers must set their cars up to meet the most stringent of restrictions generally beyond that which is required in our own country.

"Regardless of how remaps might be marketed by various companies offering tuning services, there's only really two results maximum performance or maximum economy from the engine.

"Some companies market various stages of this process or even various levels of modification but these maps seem to be a sort of off-the-shelf, one-map-suits-all generic download that hasn't considered the individual condition of your vehicle or any modifications already made.

"At DragonAuto.Works remaps are developed in house using a Dyno Developments rolling road along with genuine equipment & software for the process rather than cheap clones and downloads. The maps are custom to the car and come fully warrantied.

"So why not make a dream come true this year? It's a better present than novelty socks…"

For more information, search for dragonauto.works on the internet, visit the branch on Kingsway on Bridgend Industrial Estate, or telephone 01656 457257.

Now, who doesn't like a new hand tool for a bit of DIY at Christmas? It can be the ideal gift for the man or woman who, when the warm embrace of kith and kin or box-set bingeing, gets too much, decides to spend some time alone working on 'the project' in the garage, workshop or shed, or to fix the newel post. But where to go?

Riverside Hardware is more than a DIY store: it's a one-stop engineering store that bills itself as 'Wales' one and only premier industrial superstore'. The company prides itself on 60 years' experience, a bespoke, customer-focused approach and that staff are power-tool experts.

Aside from power tools from Draper for that all-important solo job, it is a leading retailer of Calor Gas portable heaters. Buy one, and no corner of your home – be it a manse or a studio flat – will feel the nip of the clean, cool chill of the holiday air.

The company also has a bright, new website – *www.riversidehardware.co.uk* – that is simple to navigate and filled with the latest offers across a range of products.

Visit the website, pop into the store on North Road on Bridgend Industrial Estate, or telephone 0656 662449.

Happy Christmas, readers!

*A brand of whisky, a famous tea clipper, a fictional witch (from *Tam O'Shanter* by Robert Burns), and for the purposes of this piece, a type of undergarment.

'Please don't give pets as Christmas presents'

Kittens may be cute, but they don't make good Christmas presents.

CHRISTMAS is approaching fast, but please do not give pets to young children for Christmas.

They will be so excited to see if Santa has been and overwhelmed by the amount of gifts they get, the poor little pet is often forgotten about on the day.

If you have lots of visitors, doors will be open and they could slip out unnoticed. A pet is a commitment from the start and could live up to 19 years of age, if a kitten or pup.

If your child would like a pet, think hard about it and get one after Christmas when things have calmed down.

People get offended if we refuse a kitten for Christmas, but kittens might get frightened and bewildered, they might then scratch and become nasty – that's when they are returned.

They need a quiet environment, to be socialised properly to grow up into a lovable companion to the family.

Maesteg Animal Welfare Society would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas.

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Malmo also has a shop on Caerleon Road, Newport, which is open Monday to Thursday (9am –5pm).

Staff also carry out home visits by request, including all SA postcodes.

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Suburbicon – 'Clooney covers the Coens and misses the high notes'

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

THERE are things that just go together and work perfectly. Lennon and McCartney, gin and tonic (ice and a slice please), and, cinematically, George Clooney and the Coen brothers.

Clooney has worked with the siblings four times, but their latest collaboration has a slightly different slant, as Clooney and writing partner Grant Heslov have used an existing Coen's script for his sixth film as a director, *Suburbicon*.

Set in 1959, the titular town is shaken up both by the arrival of an African-American family, the Mayers, and also by the murder of Rose Lodge (Julianne Moore) after a home invasion.

As her husband Gardner (Matt Damon) and his son Nicky (Noah Jupe) try to readjust to their lives, Rose's twin sister Margaret (also Moore) moves into the family home.

But when insurance agent Bud Cooper (Oscar Isaac) starts sniffing around the family, suspicions grow about people's actions and intentions, and Suburbicon becomes a less-than-ideal place to live...

Suburbicon is a peculiar little film. On the one hand, you have the noir-ish story of a home invasion that leads to a murder, the lives of those involved irrevocably changed and their involvement questioned.

On the other, the story of how an African-American family move into the heartland of the American dream and find the welcome less than warm.

What is most disappointing is that George Clooney's film doesn't hit home with the first element of the story. The second is ill-served and feels more like a footnote or an attempt to bring some relevance to an otherwise straightforward-ish story of greed and violence (not for nothing do the Mayers have a fence built around their home – walls must have been in short supply).

What feels most awkward is that Clooney and Grant Heslov have taken a Coen brothers' script and attempted to inject a social relevance to it, and the join is clear to see – the story of Gardner Lodge and the home invasion, and the fallout, is pure Coens while the Mayers' story feels like Clooney crusading for the right reasons, much like *Good Night and Good Luck*.

It feels as if these would make two individual pieces of work rather than the ill-fitting film that results, and Clooney feels adrift in what it is he's trying to say. Certainly his depiction of the late 1950s American suburbs, with their prim and proper lawns, jolly postmen and gazes over the picket fence is spot on, but he is on less steady ground dealing with the dark underbelly.

Films like *Double Indemnity* and *Strangers on a Train* are obvious touchstones for Clooney and there is an edgy malevolence he brings to the table, but the story is lacking.

The big reveal comes too early, so rather than a steady build of clues as we see events unfold from the point of view of Nicky, we know exactly what's going on and that it most certainly isn't going to end well.

The performances are decent, but nothing overly captivating, both Matt Damon and Julianne Moore playing the 1950s ideal and digging beneath the surface, while Noah Jupe as Nicky is engaging as his world is turned upside down, and Oscar Isaac's shifty investigator is an ice-cold blast of Coen-ese, essayed shortly, but sharply, by the actor.

If you know your Coens, then you'll guess where the story may end up; after all murky men (and women) with murky morals and even murkier methods are very rarely rewarded by the brothers, but the Mayers' story, which you always feel is going somewhere, that will tie up some loose end, doesn't. Instead, they seem to be there purely as a plot point, which is immensely disappointing, as Clooney is a filmmaker who you feel has more smarts than that.

It all ends up as a bit of a raggedy mess, a film that ultimately doesn't really engage. It's a shame that *Suburbicon* is that kind of film, as the potential for more is evident, but you can almost see why the Coen brothers left this to one side, and Clooney's involvement adds very little.

VERDICT: The sound (and sight) of George Clooney covering the Coen brothers and missing the high notes, *Suburbicon* is a film you would rightly expect so much more of – but you don't get it. Clooney's direction mines the likes of Hitchcock, Wilder and Stirk, but his efforts at injecting social relevance are misguided and ultimately defunct. There is a sharper noir, and a civil rights film, to be made from *Suburbicon*, but patched together, it makes for a disappointing effort. *Poor*.

SEE THS IF YOU LIKED: *The Man Who Wasn't There* (2001), *Double Indemnity* (1944).

*See The GEM's website on Friday for Gareth's take on *Battle of the Sexes*.

A & E unit 'is now safe'

I HAD a letter printed in The GEM September 7 issue where I stated that 'It beggars belief if the A & E department at The Royal Glamorgan is to close'.

I have today (November 27) attended a Welsh Health Specialist Services Committee meeting primarily to discuss and be informed about a major trauma network for south Wales, west Wales and south Powys as well as the future of thoracic surgery services in south Wales.

Also talked about was the Wellbeing Charter, all of which was very interesting and informative.

Among the questions that I asked was about the future of the A & E department at the Royal Glamorgan Hospital and it was confirmed by the chief executive that it will definitely be staying open!

Brilliant news for not only all of the residents in their catchment area, but all the excellent staff as well.

I certainly hope that you consider this letter worth printing as I feel sure it will impart brilliant news for your readers in the Royal Glamorgan area.

Thank you once again for such a good informative newspaper.

Season's greetings to one and all.

D Allan,
Name and address supplied.

VALE GUNDOG TRAINER IN SWEDISH TUTORIAL

Mike Larkin (far right) is shown at the award presentation to the winner of the Swedish competition.

MIKE LARKIN, a gundog trainer and judge who lives in the Vale, has returned after holding a seminar in Sweden last weekend.

Mr Larkin said: "It was a trial and judging seminar to show the Swedes how to judge in the British way.

"We were invited over by the Swedish Gundog Society. The society is keen to catch up with how we run events in Britain and make sure they are running theirs correctly."

Fellow Welsh judge, Roger Tozer from Cwmbran, also made the trip.

Mike recently handed on his expertise to gundog enthusiasts in the Czech Republic. Next March, he will be going to Switzerland, and he's off to Germany in July and September.

Valeways guided walks

ON Sunday, December 3 at 10.30am meet at the entrance of Tesco, Porth Road in Barry for 'Church and Huge Christmas Wreath'.

On December 5 at 10am, Crwydro at Coffee Cove, Ynys y Barri.

On Wednesday, December 6 the Coffee Shop Strollers Cosmeston meet at 10.30am outside the Cosmeston visitor centre. Meet at 2.30pm the same day in Llantwit Major in the town hall car park, for a walk with the Coffee Shop Strollers there.

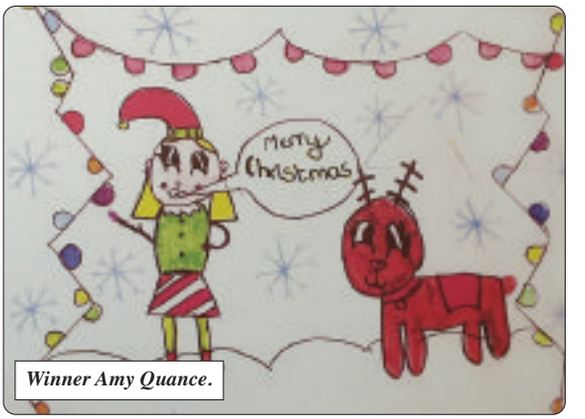
On Thursday, December 7 the Secondary Breast Cancer Strollers meet at 10.30am at the information centre at Cosmeston.

NSPCC trip cancelled

THE NSPCC trip to the Bath Christmas market due to take place on Sunday, December 3, has been cancelled.

For refunds, contact Ewa Thomas on 01446 771728.

One lucky school wins all categories of Mayor's Christmas card competition



Winner Amy Quance.

MANY schools throughout the Vale entered and standards were, said a spokesperson, "extremely high".

Remarkably, however, all three winners were chosen from the same school: Y Bont Faen Primary.

The winners were Amy Quance from year-6, Harry Williams from nursery and Emily Wallis from reception.

These winning designs will be printed, and sent as digital Christmas cards, from the MD of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Rob Thomas and Leader of the Vale Council Cllr John Thomas, all over the UK and Europe.

Second place Harry Williams.

Highly commended entries came from Dylan Bail-Braunton, Peter Coe, Katie Gardener, Lottie Smale, Seren Morgan and Oscar Birrane.

Twelve Days of Christmas in one day at yacht club

BARRY Yacht Club started off the festive season with a 'bang' when its annual Christmas fayre took place.

Organiser Lis Frearson had ensured that gifts galore were there to be had for discerning buyers: from bespoke jewellery to beautiful hand-made crafts and not forgetting the wonderful Christmas cake stall, RNLI Christmas cards and Scout Post stamps.

On the first day of Christmas, we had BYC member Karen Donkin selling wares at the entrance to the Christmas fayre. Club members Joan and Clive Powell displayed many stunning photographs they have taken this year as BYC's official photographers.

On the second day of Christmas, we had jewellery to rival Bond Street, London.

On the third day of Christmas, we had festive gifts, from festive jam jar covers to personalised Christmas cards, traditional bunting to photograph frames.

On the fourth day of Christmas, we had a stall full of beautiful local oil paintings, watercolours and sketches of the natural Barry habitat. One particular sketch was of a rather cheeky looking rabbit – many people have forgotten that prior to the Island becoming a seaside resort, there was a large colony of rabbits on Barry Island.

On the fifth day of Christmas, we had beautiful linen teddy bears, hand embroidered with tiny flowers of every description in a rainbow of colours. If anyone was looking for a family heirloom to pass down through the generations, then this was the stall to head for. Indeed, there were other treasures to be found there with stunning hand-painted silk scarves in an array of colours.

On the sixth day of Christmas, it was time to sit down and have a cup of tea or coffee in the galley.

On the seventh day of Christmas, it was time to have a catch up with old friends and fellow members.

On the eighth day of Christmas, it was back into the fayre to discover more Christmas treasures for family and friends and the temptation proved to be too great for most of us.

On the ninth day of Christmas, we were enchanted by a table of Christmas tea lights in beautifully painted glass Christmas candle holders together, with the cutest little bird's nest boxes you will ever see – complete with a miniature seagull on the top!

On the tenth day of Christmas, the sun had started to set on what had been a truly wonderful Christmas fayre on a beautiful crisp early winter's day.

On the eleventh day of Christmas, we started to pack up the stalls for another year and the galley poured its final cups of tea.

On the twelfth day of Christmas, it was time to say a very big 'thank you' to all the traders who had set up stalls at Barry Yacht Club and to the members who contributed to the day's success.

STEVEN LORD

For all the latest news from your area - glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Taking care of Christmas at Sublime Hair and Beauty are (left to right): Naomi, Tyler, Vanessa and Ceri.

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RHOOSE *for a Cosy Village Christmas*

Local businesses stand the test of time in Rhoose

RHOOSE is one place in the Vale that is hard to categorise.

Its population has increased over the last 10 years, and it spreads out over quite an area now – way too big to be a village.

But, it hasn't yet been reclassified as a town, even though its population passed that of Cowbridge 20 years ago, and it is now more than 50 per cent bigger than the Vale's market town.

Indeed, at the 2000 census, Rhoose was just over half the size of Llantwit Major, but by 2016, it was up to 75 per cent (6,230 against 8,552).

The town's shopping area is concentrated along its main road, either side of the primary school and, with its proximity to the Heritage Coast, it is a popular holiday area.

It seems to be the case that businesses who open in Rhoose seem to stay open, quickly establishing a regular clientele and giving the business owners a chance to grow steadily and in a sustainable way.

Typical of this is Sublime Hair and Beauty, where owner Vanessa has been in business for six-and-a-half years. Before that she was in St Athan for 23 years, so she knows the business inside out.

Vanessa, Tyler and Ceri are the hairdressers, while Naomi is a beautician and, with the festive season in mind, they will be opening late on Fridays and early on Saturdays in the run up to Christmas.

Also, during December, out of hours appointments can be arranged too.

Sublime Hair and Beauty will be delighted to welcome customers, old and new, as we approach Christmas.

Another business where the owners have been settled in Rhoose for some time is The Fontygary Inn, where Kerry and Kevin Eade recently celebrated their 10th year in the premises.

That's quite an achievement these days in the pub trade, but Kevin puts that down to developing a great relationship with the community.

The pub gets much valued trade from the nearby holiday parks, but locals matter to any local pub.

Kevin said: "We've always had great support from the community. It's really good to see locals bringing friends along, and then seeing those friends come back! This year, we are offering a big Christmas welcome to all our customers."

It's a pub that is licensed 365 days a year, and one regular festive spot that has become popular is the Boxing Day Race Night.

They do breakfasts, lunchtime offers, and evening offers such as two sirloin 8oz steaks for £14.95 (Monday to Thursday). It's a pub that listens to what customers want, and goes out of its way to provide it.

Back in the main shopping area, Glenys Watson runs Coffee Time, open 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday, giving locals a little haven to stop and have a tea, coffee or snack.

It's time for her to have her Turkey baguettes ready once again (always a big hit at this time of year) and she also has a wide range of speciality lattes, spiced and enticing with Christmassy flavours.

Good value home-made food is her trademark, and Coffee Time has become a Rhoose fixture as a result.

Glenys said: "I would like to thank all my customers for their business over the year, and wish them all a happy time this Christmas."

Not every business in Rhoose is on the main thorough fare. Head off along Rhoose Road towards the airport and you will find 'Passport to Play' – another long-established local business.

The nursery has been running for 10 years now, ever since Rose and Rebecca (a mother and daughter team) opened it.

Passport to Play takes children from six weeks to 11 years, and has grown to the point where they employ 18 staff.

It's another example of a local business that has grown as a result of providing a good, consistent and reliable service for the people of Rhoose.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

ABOVE: Take a break at Coffee Time

All ready for Christmas at the Six Bells, Penmark.

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Visit us on Facebook or our website
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The perfect venue to celebrate with friends & family.
Large or small parties welcome.
£13.50 2 Courses • £15.95 3 Courses
Book early to take advantage of free live entertainment on Friday & Saturday evenings. Christmas fayre menu available November, December and until mid January (except Christmas day). Must be booked in advance.

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Entertainment, buffet & late bar
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Traditional Sunday Lunch
Served 12-5pm
Starters from £2.75
Main course £7.95
All desserts £3.50
(Booking advised)

Breakfast
Served Saturday 10 - 12 noon. Sunday 10 - 11.30am.

Boxing Night Race Night
8.30pm onwards, Monday December 26th

8oz Sirloin Sizzlers
£14.95 for 2
Mon - Thurs 6-9pm.

Thursday Night is Curry Night
£2 off all home made curry meals.

Wide choice of children's meals.
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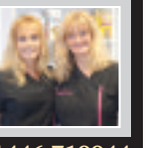

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Lunchimes £17.95 Evening £23.95
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Great prizes - only £1 a square.
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RHOOSE for a Cosy Village Christmas

Rhoose community is ready for Christmas

There's a warm welcome at Deano's Barbers.

Kerry and Kevin are celebrating 10 years at the Fontygary Inn (above).

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

Just outside Rhoose is the hamlet of Penmark, where you will find The Six Bells, which has developed an outstanding reputation in recent years thanks to the efforts of the owners Mark and James.

People love a traditional Welsh pub and at Christmas, with its cosy, friendly atmosphere, it ticks all the boxes.

The high quality of its dining is recognised not just in the Vale, but further afield in Cardiff and Bridgend.

On Facebook, one fan from across the Severn, Elainie, commented: "I've had many meals there. I come from Kent to see family and always visit the Six Bells for a meal. We had a party there for my niece. The staff are great as well."

Another customer Nick added: "It's one of the friendliest pubs I've been in – ever!"

To book a meal in the day or evening call 01446 710229.

The Six Bells is an ideal, relaxing venue for office lunches too and has ample car parking. If you would like a menu sent to your business, just email *mail@sixbellspenmark.co.uk*

For more information on The Six Bells, Penmark (CF62 3BP) go to www.sixbellspenmark.co.uk

Returning to Rhoose, another established business is Posh Pawz, run by Kath and Jo,who have been in town for over five years.

Christmas is the busiest time of the year, with owners smartening up their dogs before taking them to family gatherings.

It is in fact their sixth Christmas here, so they know what to expect and, as well as offering their skills at smartening up the scruffiest pooch, they have stocked up for the season too, with accessories, treats, and even doggie Christmas jumpers.

To make sure that you can smarten up your dog close to the big day, they will be staying open until December 23, before taking a break until January 3.

Just down the road from Posh Pawz is Deano's Barbers – yet another long-established business, making its way by providing good service and a warm welcome.

Deano told The GEM: "We have two barbers who are kept busy, and I would like to thank all our existing customers for their business.

"It will be a pleasure to see any customers new to the area who would like to call in."

Yet another pub/restaurant that has stayed in the same hands is The Highway, at Nurston, just outside Rhoose. The owner, Derek Gaynor, said: "This has been our best year ever.

"It has been busy and in the run up to Christmas, I would strongly recommend that people should book ahead – it's not essential but definitely advisable.

"Recently, our 'scores on the door' went up from four to five, and we have extended our great value over-60s menu until 5pm.

"We changed the menu a bit over the summer and, combined with the local airport carrying more passengers, we are definitely seeing a spin off."

Kath and Jo will pamper your pooch at Posh Pawz.

The Highwayman, of course, also runs an airport parking service from a site next door, so the prospects are good.

Prospects, it has to be said, are good for the community of Rhoose too, with its perfect location on the Heritage Coast, and local businesses that know the value of good service.

There's never a bad time to visit Rhoose, and traders are looking forward to another good year.

A BUMPER CHRISTMAS IS AHEAD FOR RHOOSE

RHOOSE is already in the Christmas mood, with Rhoose Christmas Market planned for Saturday, December 2 at the Rhoose Community Hall on Stewart Road, with Rhoose Community Library Christmas Fair on December 6 and Rhoose Community Cinema on December 16.

The details for Rhoose Christmas Market on December 2 which include the Christmas tree and winter scene lights are as follows:

12pm – 4.30pm: Christmas market open.

1pm – 4pm: Santa visiting for the children, £3 each.

4.30pm – 5pm: Vale of Glamorgan Brass Band

5.30pm – 6pm: The Scoundrels.

6.30pm – 7pm Tenovus Choir.

7pm: Christmas tree and winter scene lights turn on. There will also be a bar, mince pies and mulled wine.

On Saturday, December 9, Rhoose Community Library will be holding its first-ever Christmas Fair from 1pm to 4pm. There will refreshments, children's activities, Christmas gift/decoration stalls as well as book/toys/puzzles stall. There will also be a chocolate tombola and a craft stall.

There will be a Christmas raffle draw with a prize luxury Christmas hamper as first prize, a Christmas cake for the second prize and a third prize of a bottle of wine.

On Saturday, December 16, Rhoose Community Cinema presents *Love Actually* (15). Showtime is 7.15pm. All tickets £5 (includes a mince pie).

Sunday, December 17, *Elf* (PG). Doors open at 1.45pm, showtime 2.15pm.

All tickets are £3.50 and it includes a visit and gift from Santa for every child.

For tickets go to: www.facebook.com/rhoosecinema/; or phone Jen on 07779 004198.

JJ

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A Merry Christmas
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Normal menu available for diners until 9pm.
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• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

'Aston Martin fears are groundless'

ASTON Martin's claim that the entire British car industry may halt production if there is a 'no deal' Brexit is utter nonsense

The recent claim by Aston Martin's chief financial officer Mark Wilson that the company may be forced to halt production in the case of a 'no-deal' Brexit is nonsense.

Mr Wilson claims that because all new cars in the UK must have Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA) approval, the company may be forced to halt production in March 2019 if an agreement is not made.

Of course, this would not only apply to Aston Martin, but to every company in the UK that produces cars. Is he really suggesting that all car production in the UK will halt in March 2019 in the case of a 'no-deal' Brexit?

Mr Wilson played down fears of a Brexit car industry cataclysm in the next paragraph of his statement: "We suppose there will be a transitional arrangement. During that transition we would have to look to see how Aston Martin could recertify under a non-VCA approval structure."

It is preposterous to suggest that the entire British car industry will close down just because of the change of a logo on a certification form.

Aston Martin sells approximately 600 cars a year to the EU, while German car manufacturers alone export 820,000 cars to the United Kingdom, accounting for 14 per cent of all German car production.

If anything, such a freeze would provide an enormous opportunity for domestic car production in the UK, but either way, these fears are the stuff of fantasy.

Kris Hicks,
(Head of Communications UKIP Wales).

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Where were MPs during the EU legislation introduction?

MPS are demanding the power to vote on any Brexit deal, and it seems that some at least see it as a way to stop Brexit altogether.

This is at the very least paradoxical: they are demanding the power to reject being given more power; they are demanding the power to be overruled by the EU.

By rejecting the insertion of a leave date into legislation and thus leaving open possible prolonged negotiation, they reject a "take it or leave" it vote at the end of it all – yet they have been quite content to accept "take it, or else" EU legislation since 1972.

The so-called Henry VIII powers would allow the Government to bypass Parliament until the transition to self government is complete. These MPs reject this, yet until now have been happily subjugated permanently to the unelected EU commission and European Court of Justice without being consulted at all.

In any case, where were these MPs and their predecessors when Geoffrey Howe introduced 13,000 pages of EU legislation into British law and all further EU legislation by statutory instrument, which meant that there was no discussion about it whatsoever?

Tony Benn described this as "A coup d'état by a political class who did not believe in popular sovereignty".

At least all this is a welcome change from the era when there was consensus on the EU. Let us hope that we in the UK get a system where our politicians really are accountable to the electorate.

It is perhaps understandable that European countries should distrust their populations, which have produced the French revolutionary Terror and Hitler to name two, but this has not been our experience since 1649.

R Bradshaw,
Cowbridge.

Reinstate No90 bus for those without cars

I WISH to add my disgust at the loss of the No 90 bus. All people my age (80) miss the chance to get this bus as it helps us to get about, as most of us no longer have cars.

I miss M&S and Tesco – maybe they would put transport on for us if they were asked?

Perhaps the council should restore the service?

People in Barry do not have a choice now – it's shop in Barry, or not at all.

I write on behalf of all Barry OAPs in the hope that something can be done to help us.

Mrs M Francis, Barry

'NRW assessors need to talk to each other'

FRIENDS of the Earth (Barry & Vale) objected over the lack of an assessment of the Biomass site in Barry being flooded from the sea.

Storm surge flooding under climate change of Barry's Waterfront development should be taken into account, in raised land levels etc.

In their Decision Document issued on Monday, the NRW tick-boxers changed FoE's objection to simple 'flooding', then answered "a flood plan is not required due to the location".

No detail, no study, just a bland assertion "it has been assessed" (p.140 in the Decision Document).

The housing consortium, fortunately, did not show similar contempt in selling their homes, but offered house purchasers a technical assessment that gave a flood-planning height of 9.1 metres (AOD), agreed with NRW.

It seems NRW's incinerator assessors did not bother to ask NRW's technical experts.

Such a flippant attitude to public objections needs to be over-ruled by the Welsh Minister.

Max Wallis,
Barry & Vale FoE.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT ALL SAINTS'

THE choral group Amici will be returning to All Saints' Church, Barry on Saturday, December 2 as the last fundraiser of 2017 for the Roof Restoration Project.

The project was launched in September 2016 to raise £231,000 for a new church roof. Amici – 'Friends' in Latin – perform small scale concerts, church services and weddings and all of the members belong to Cantamus Chamber Choir. The concert will be a selection of Christmas music, some of which will include new arrangements and new pieces. A young member of the All Saints' choir will also be singing with Amici.

Tickets at £10 adults and £5 children from 01446 745997 or on the door on the evening.

Committee members will host a Prosecco bar with mince pies during the interval. The concert will commence at 6.30pm, doors open at 5.45pm.

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Community choir's Christmas concert

COME and join Barry Community Choir for a sparkling Christmas concert which will be held at Crossway Methodist Church, Barry on Sunday, December 10 at 3pm.

The choir will perform songs old and new and would love you to join in with them to sing some beloved carols.

To top this off, we are welcoming harpist Eluned Henry. Add to this a grand Christmas raffle, a programme prize and delicious festive refreshments afterwards – all for the ticket price of £7 (children under 16 are free).

Tickets are available via the choir's website and Facebook, from choir members and on the door. Call Sheila 01446 748724 or Helen 029 2053 1359 for more information or to order tickets.

We look forward to welcoming you to "Jingle all the Way" with us!

AS

GVS toolkit now available for groups

GLAMORGAN Voluntary Services (GVS) is pleased to announce that its Third Sector Consortium Toolkit is now available.

It contains useful information for individuals or groups who are thinking of working together in a consortium.

The toolkit contains top 10 tips for creating and working in a consortium, information on the barriers to consortium working and how to overcome them, guidance on consortium working with large funders and support with tendering for goods and services.

The toolkit has been produced following a successful, three-year, consortium development project managed by GVS and funded by the Vale Council's Voluntary Action Scheme.

Over 160 meetings were attended by GVS's consortium development officer, 12 consortia were developed, three attracted funding and another is working well as a partnership.

The funding received represents a seven-fold return on the Council's initial grant investment.

One full-time and six part-time posts have been created and over 40 organisations have worked together on projects and developed valuable contacts and knowledge and understanding of each other's work.

The toolkit can be downloaded free from: *www.gvs.wales/news/2017/10/toolkit*

Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS), Tel: 01446 741706, E-mail: enquiries@gvs.wales, Website: www.gvs.wales.

For all the latest news from your area - glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Hospice appreciates donations for remembrance event

Kay French, chef at the Marie Curie Cardiff and the Vale Hospice, with wine donations for Lights to Remember's mulled wine.

A SERVICE to help people remember someone special takes place this weekend – and organisers have thanked everyone who responded to their appeal for wine for the evening.

The Marie Curie Lights to Remember event will take place outside the charity's Bridgeman Road hospice for the first time this year, at Y Kymin on Beach Road, Penarth.

As well as a moment of remembrance, the evening will include carol singing and entertainment, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Spiritual care co-ordinator, Claire Wretham, who will open the service, said: "This time of year provides a chance for reflection as the new year is in sight and the lights to remember is a service designed for families, friends and loved ones to come together and remember their lost one, to join with others who are bereaved and to celebrate all that that individual was to them."

Sara Bass, fundraising manager for Wales, thanked all those who had already donated wine to be mulled for the evening, and encouraged people to join to remember loved ones.

Jill Taylor, who volunteers at the fundraising office in Penarth, will be volunteering at the event for the second year.

"Though it can be an emotional event, it is a very rewarding one to volunteer at," she said.

"For a lot of people, it's nice for them to be able to remember their loved one, and have someone to talk to about their memories."

As well as wine, cups have been donated to the hospice for the evening from Waterloo Tea, Crazy Café and Coffee One in Penarth.

Any other Christmas donations of drinks or Christmas treats for the wards can also be sent to the fundraising office at the hospice.

The evening begins at 6pm on Sunday, December 3.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL • CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2017/01099/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: To clad all sides of the house from first floor up, (excluding areas of stone wall). To change windows to front of house from existing pvc-u to sash windows. To have flue for log burning stove rising from flat roof. Replacement of existing balustrade
Location:/Lleoliad: The Coach House, Beach Lane, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2017/01213/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Single storey side and rear extension and extension to front of the property
Location:/Lleoliad: 12, Murch Crescent, Dinas Powys
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Affecting the Dinas Powys Conservation Area

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2017/01217/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Variation of Condition 1 of Planning Permission 2012/01088/FUL to extend time for implementation - Detached two storey office building
Location:/Lleoliad: 33, High Street, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Cowbridge

Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2017/01159/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed new signage, internal alterations and AC units
Location:/Lleoliad: 27, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2017/01223/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Planning and listed building consent for the removal of 4no dormers and construction of 3 dormers, fenestration alterations, construction of a double height porch, construction of a side porch, erection of conservation velux windows, erection of solar panels, erection of a bat mitigation house and internal alteration works
Location:/Lleoliad: Caer Wigau Isaf, Pendoylan Road, Pendoylan
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2017/01253/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Alterations to existing listed residence to include the provision of a new first floor to the previous chapel, internal remodelling and the provision of roof lights to the existing slate roof. Replacement of modern cement based dashed render to previous chapel house with new naturally hydraulic lime based render
Location:/Lleoliad: Bryn Sion Chapel House, Penylan Road, St. Brides Major
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2017/00910/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Development of 12 dwellings and associated infrastructure at Land at The Rectory, Wenvoe
Location:/Lleoliad: The Rectory, Port Road, Wenvoe

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2017/01197/RG3
Proposal:/Cynnig: Variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission 2017/00260/RG3 - Revision to design of dwelling at Plot 8
Location:/Lleoliad: Land to the East of Holm View Leisure Centre, Skomer Road, Barry

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2017/01203/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: The change of use of land as an extension to the existing wastewater treatment works site and the construction of an Advanced Anaerobic Digestion (AAD) Plant, together with associated landscaping and mitigation measures and the formation of temporary construction compounds
Location:/Lleoliad: Cog Moors Wastewater Treatment Works, Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2017/01203/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: The change of use of land as an extension to the existing wastewater treatment works site and the construction of an Advanced Anaerobic Digestion (AAD) Plant, together with associated landscaping and mitigation measures and the formation of temporary construction compounds
Location:/Lleoliad: Cog Moors Wastewater Treatment Works, Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 30 November, 2017

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager, Regeneration and Planning, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Autism Awareness Month: make changes happen

I WOULD like to share my thoughts with you about autism. True evolution, in my view, is a marriage between the autistic and the norm.

A full endorsement of this philosophy should be adopted by society in Wales.

Hopefully, things will change: an autism bill will be passed and the provision will improve.

November is Autism Awareness Month and is an opportunity to contemplate the rights that people with autism deserve.

We must make these changes happen.

Aled Thomas, Penarth.

ALL SAINTS CINEMA CLUB IN PENARTH

THE next screening by the All Saints Cinema Club will be on Thursday, December 7, at All Saints Church Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth. The film will be *White Christmas,* starring Bing Crosby, the famous Christmas must-see film.

Doors open 7pm, ticket £7.50 to include glass of wine/soft drink on arrival and seasonal refreshments in the interval. Tickets are available from Jane McLaughlin on 02920 708088. Seats are limited, so don't delay and reserve your place today!

WI craft 'spectacular' at Margam Orangery

ON November 18, Margam Orangery at Margam Park Port Talbot provided the magnificent backdrop for a Craft Spectacular hosted by Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes.

This event is held every two years and provides members from all over the federation with an opportunity to display and offer a wonderful array of hand made craft items.

Visitors were able to start their Christmas shopping by browsing through the 24 stalls selling stunning silk scarves, beautiful jewelry, delightful decorated boxes, unusual tree decorations and much, much more. Up-cycled items also featured this year with one of the federation's members showing what exciting things can be done to breathe new life into all sorts of unwanted and unloved objects!

Refreshments were provided in the dining room by the Orangery staff, and after an exhausting morning's shopping, ladies were able to relax and catch up with friends from other areas and institutes. A lovely way to start the festive season! **IS**

For all the latest news from your area - glamorgan-gem.co.uk

THE PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS AND A SOGGY MESS

FOR the 11 walkers who joined Joy in the car park at Castell Coch, what should have been a walk up over Garth Hill with great views, turned into a rather soggy mess.

Heading along pavements down through Tongwynlais in light rain below the A470 led them to the bank of the River Taff, before a footbridge with its misty views back to the castle brought them to Gelynis farmhouse, crossing the railway line and up into a deserted Morganstown.

Following a pretty autumnal path beside the busy M4 to Pant Tawel Lane and a narrow pathway through woodland, a climb up through soaking wet fields meant a stop for morning break where the expected views were hidden by misty rain.

More fields brought them towards Pentyrch, where a descent on a slippery path led into a valley with more boggy meadows before the gradual climb up onto Garth Hill and into heavier rainfall and wind.

Descending past sheep and sturdy Welsh Black cattle, they paddled across a stream into part of Coed y Gedrys where the rain stopped, allowed them a quick lunch break as the temperature fell.

Making their way out of the wood and dropping steeply through Gwaelod-y-garth to re-cross the River Taff, the railway line and the A470 into Taff's Well, they climbed up the other side of the valley through Coed Ty-Rhiw.

Joining part of the Taff Trail for the final push uphill through the beautiful Fforest Fawr, they were engulfed by more rain prior to the descent on leaf-strewn pathways back to the castle.

Robin and his spaniel Pepper enjoyed much better weather the following day on their excursion up to Goodrich in Herefordshire where they were also joined by 11 walkers.

Setting off to Kerne Bridge, the sun soon broke through the clouds lighting up the neat ploughed meadows and the colourful trees lining the peaceful River Wye.

Skidding along some muddy pathways in Thomas Wood, morning break on the riverbank meant a surprise from John R who shared his delicious home baked orange and lemon cake.

Continuing through Courtfield Estate land while overlooking three paddle boarders making their way downstream, the group arrived at Welsh Bicknor with its YMCA and lovely restored St Margaret's Church.

Pretty autumnal views in Park Wood led them back out onto the wide riverbank for lunch in warm sunshine, when outer coats were disposed of for the rest of the day.

Several of the group witnessed a sudden flash of blue from a kingfisher as they continued along the river gazing up at the look-out point high above them at Yat Rock, and reaching Rocklands Farm, a chance to pet a friendly Shetland pony and a Gloucester Old Spot boar with rather fierce looking tusks.

A short piece of road-walking led to their only climb of the day with the reward of stunning views to St Giles Church before the return to Goodrich for refreshments in the café for some, while others enjoyed a quick tour around the red sandstone castle ruins before the journey home.

On December 2, meet at 9am at Barry Dock Railway Station car park for an eight-mile moderate walk from Wick taking in a pebble beach (so bring a stick); contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

On December 6, a train ramble with a 12-mile moderate/hard linear walk from Llanharan to Taff's Well, train leaves Barry at 0845 and Penarth at 0847 to catch the 0918 from Cardiff Central to Llanharan; contact William on 07528 701 952.

To follow the group, log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com or Facebook. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Barrivale Bridge Club news

THE results for the Barrivale Bridge Club Championship team's Session 2 on November 22 are as follows:

The Championship team winners are: first, Dave Thomas and Peter Millar; Mike Close, Tim Barsby and Jenny Vaughan.

Second, Mick Green, Noelle Bond, Mike Best, Mark Roderick and Dennis Mottram.

Third, Alan Jones, Lyn Matthews, Kay Dyer and Irene Thomas.

New members are welcome and a partner may be arranged, if required. If you would like to join us, call 01446 418380, 01446 733425; 01446 735592 or call in at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm. The beginners and improvers classes run on Friday mornings. **LH**

'Tapathon' for Children In Need

ON November 19, the Anthea M King School of Dancing took part in the Tapathon 2017 for Children in Need, organised by the Performers Project.

£750 was raised by the dancing school and had 70 students and teachers all tapping at the same time, all synchronized with other tappers in different venues all over the country hoping to break the world record while raising money for Children in Need.

It will be a few weeks before it is known if the world record has been broken but raising money for such a worthwhile cause, being together from ages four upwards, and doing what we all love and enjoying the friendship, chatter and laughter with food and drink afterwards made it all worthwhile.

ALICIA M KING

GORCHYMYN CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

(Y PORTH (RHAN) Y BONT-FAEN (GWAHARDD A CHYFYNGU AR FANNAU AROS A LLWYTHO A PHARCIO) (GORFODI SIFIL) (DROS DRO) 2017

1. Ar 30 Tachwedd 2017 gwnaeth Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, wrth arfer ei bwerau dan Adrannau 1, 2, 3, 4, 14, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53 a 124 a Rhan IV Atodlen 9 Deddf Rheoleiddio Traffig 1984 a Rhan 6 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 2004 (fel y'i diwygiwyd) a'r holl bwerau galluogi eraill Orchymyn â'i effaith gyffredinol fydd gwneud yr hyn a ddisgrifir yn yr atodlen isod:

2. Gelwir y Gorchymyn yn "Gorchymyn Cyngor Bro Morgannwg (Westgate (Rhan) Y Bont-faen) ((Gwahardd a Chyfyngu ar Fannau Aros a Llwytho a Pharcio) (Gorfodi Sifil) (Dros Dro)2017" a bydd yn dod i rym ar 4 Rhagfyr 2017 neu ar y dyddiad y caiff y arwyddion a marciau ffordd eu harddangos p'un bynnag sydd hwyraf.

ATODLEN

Gwahardd Aros Dros Dro ar unrhyw adeg

Westgate, y Bont-faen

Ar ochr y gogledd-ddwyrain o bwynt 35m metr i'r gogledd-orllewin o'r gyffordd ag Eagle Lane am 6m i'r gogledd-orllewin.

Ar ochr de-orllewinol y ffordd o bwynt 15.5m i'r gogledd-orllewin o'r gyffordd â The Butts am 12.5m i'r gogledd-orllewin.

Yn ogystal caiff y Gorchymyn Traffig Ffordd a elwir yn **Orchymyn Gwahardd a Chyfyngu ar Fannau Aros a Llwytho a Pharcio (Gorfodi Sifil) Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2013** ei atal yn rhannol fel a ganlyn:-

Westgate, y Bont-faen

Ar ochr ogledd-ddwyreiniol y ffordd o bwynt 35m metr i'r gogledd-orllewin o'r gyffordd Ag Eagle Lane am 6m i'r gogledd-orllewin.

Rheswm Er budd diogelwch y cyhoedd wrth i waith dymchwel ac adeiladu gael ei wneud ger Westgate, y Bont-faen.

Hyd O 07.00am ar 4 Rhagfyr 2017 am hyd at 18 mis.

Dyddiad 30 Tachwedd 2017

M. E. Punter,
Cyfarwyddwr Amgylchedd a Thai
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Yr Alpau, Gwenfô.
CF5 6AA.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

(WESTGATE (PART) COWBRIDGE (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND LOADING AND PARKING PLACES) (CIVIL ENFORCEMENT) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2017

1. On 30th November 2017 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 14, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53 and 124 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 (as amended), and of all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedule below:

2. The Order will be known as "The Vale of Glamorgan Council (Westgate (Part) Cowbridge) ((Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement) (Temporary) Order" 2017 and shall come into force on 4th December 2017 or on the date that the road signs and markings are in place whichever is the later.

SCHEDULE

Temporary Prohibition of waiting at any time

Westgate, Cowbridge

On the north eastern side of the road from a point 35m northwest of its junction with Eagle Lane for a distance of 6m in a north westerly direction.

On the south western side of the road from a point 15.5m northwest of its junction with The Butts for a distance of 12.5m in a north westerly direction.

In addition the Road Traffic Order known as the **Vale of Glamorgan Council Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places (Civil Enforcement) Order 2013** shall be suspended in part as follows:-

Westgate, Cowbridge

On the north eastern side of the road from a point 35m northwest of its junction with Eagle Lane for a distance of 6m in a north westerly direction.

Reason In the interests of public safety during demolition and new building works taking place adjacent to Westgate, Cowbridge.

Duration From 07.00am on 4th December 2017 for a maximum period of 18 months.

Dated this 30th day of November 2017.

M. E. Punter,
Director of Environment & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

PART 7 - SCAVENGERS AND THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES 1889-95

Local historian Laurie Owen continues his series, looking at the how Barry grew so rapidly between the years 1880 and 1905.

THOUSANDS of new workers arriving from 1884 to work on the docks and railway led to major problems of human waste disposal.

Prior to that time villagers had used existing cesspools, which could not possibly cope with this new influx of people. The docks' contractor TA Walker soon built a sewer system in East Barry for his workers and the Holton sewer, built by the Wenvoe Castle Estate, dealt with the early needs of that area.

However, with the Local Board not being established until July 1888 it would then be another three years before a proper drainage and sewerage system could be opened in Cadoxton.

In the meantime 'scavengers' were employed to tour the streets and back lanes three times a week with a horse and open cart, emptying human waste from 'soil pans' in closets and from cesspools.

While most residents were pleased that they no longer had to empty their own waste, there was some objection to the times of collection. It was reported that the scavenger cart was seen in Main Street at 9.30pm and people who were still out and about resented witnessing the sight and smells. Board members agreed that work should not start until 10.30pm at the earliest.

In December 1889, a scavenger was dumping sewage on fields at Weston Farm and with no designated disposal sites, brooks and fields were often the favoured spots for offloading their disgusting cargo. This could then lead to diseases like typhoid and cholera, but was also very unpleasant for residents to witness on a daily basis.

Scavenger William Osborne was forced to admit to the Health Committee that his men had emptied 'night soil' into the brook near the Old Court, below which Gladstone Road would later be constructed. While being given a caution, he complained that many back doors were fastened, preventing them from clearing the soil pans.

As a further illustration of the chaos which authorities were struggling to control, in January 1890 an unnamed scavenger emptied 100 gallons of liquid filth from a cesspool into a yard, which then ran down the road. That same month, an indignant ratepayer accused them of being objectionable at night with their 'abhorrent yells and disgusting epithets'. Often damaging property or leaving filthy trails of effluent, at times they might neglect their duty for two or three weeks. His hope was for some improvement, now that a new role of Special Sanitary Inspector was due to be filled.

Early on the Board ordered two tumbler carts for £48 and a 'water wagon' holding 225 gallons, costing £38.10s. The former were used to empty cesspools and the latter watered the streets to dampen down the dust, but could also be used to supply drinking water on special occasions.

In April 1890, in spite of his earlier transgressions, William Osborne was awarded the contract to scavenge the whole town three times a week for £44 a month.

Although scavenging was very unpleasant and the subject of constant criticism from residents and Board Members alike, there was no shortage of men eager to secure the work. In the summer of 1891 the Finance Committee decided to split the district into three and change to daily collections.

Seven tenders were received for Cadoxton and although 155 complaints had been received in just one month about scavengers Messrs Gray & Amos, their £18 a month quote was still accepted as it was the cheapest. Out of six tenders for Barry Dock, that of £20 by William Osborne was accepted and Charles Eyles' quote of £5 at East Barry was the cheapest of 11 submitted.

William Osborne was most likely a haulier and greengrocer at Vere Street, hopefully with several different carts. Samuel Amos was a haulier-employer living at 27 Forster Street and his wife Berthia was a lodging house keeper with 12 lodgers.

Charles Eyles was a haulier-employer living at 27 Evans Street with his wife Sarah.

Continuous complaints led to a high turnover of men, but with no stipulated depots to dump the waste, it was bound to lead to what could aptly be called 'fly-tipping'.

Other names of scavengers which some readers may recognise were: William Herne of Barry Road, William Irwin of Garden Cottage, William Jones of Treharne Road, David and Thomas Paulett, Jenkin Brock of Rose Cottage, Cadoxton and Thomas Ruckley.

David Paulett would later become a coal merchant and furniture remover with offices at the Station Yard and Cadoxton Market Mews. Jenkin Brock came from a well-known Cadoxton family and was a gamekeeper before becoming a road contractor/employer.

With the opening of both sewage works by 1894, the unpleasant aspect of scavengers' work gradually decreased. Household refuse would still be collected, with duties including sweeping and scraping the streets, but even then they could still provoke complaints by leaving the scrapings piled outside houses. By now employed by the Council, in 1895 it was even being discussed that they should be given seven days' annual holiday.

With so many complaints being made by irate residents, an official was desperately needed to supervise the scavengers and deal with the reports of malpractice.

Joseph Charles Pardoe AMICE was appointed Surveyor to the first Local Board in July 1888 and initially agreed to combine this position with the role of Inspector of Nuisances. However, such was the rapid growth of the town, it soon became necessary to create two separate positions and in October 1889, JC Pardoe was reappointed Surveyor with a salary of £150pa.

'Nuisances' had mainly concerned human waste and scavenging, so when a drain burst in Fairford Street causing a fearful stench that was deemed a nuisance needing urgent action. Some people would urinate outside theatres while others would block lanes; and even the influential Dr O'Donnell was accused of turning newly-improved Robins Lane into a farmyard, with manure from his horses. This last seemingly innocent 'nuisance' would escalate to a full-blown slander case in court.

Early in 1890 on a salary of £100pa George Lightfoot, a 32 year old from Middlesborough, was appointed Inspector of Nuisances/Sanitary Inspector, with duties to now include boarding and inspecting vessels at the Docks.

In May he seized a cwt of meat from a local butcher which was unfit for human consumption and had to be cremated at the gasworks.

A story of attempted bribery appeared in October, when a grocer from out of town with a new shop in Vere Street sent George 10/- to encourage him to give special attention to his drains.

His first contact with William Osborne was to complain that his scavenging in East Barry and Cadoxton was not acceptable. Anywhere a health risk may be present would be on his schedule, including vessels, lodging houses, private homes with infections, bakers, fishmongers, dairies, cow sheds and all their utensils.

Just two months later at a meeting of the Health Committee, Dr Neale MOH recommended buying an 'asphyxiator' for disinfecting purposes. The Inspector was despatched to Bristol to check out a possible deal, with only half his travel costs paid and even more bizarrely, he was to go in his Christmas holidays.

He later recommended a 'Grahtryx' drain tester, the best and cheapest at £6 and a 'Nelson' disinfector for £40. Both were approved. After this indignity and subsequent good work, when George asked for extra horses for the scavengers, he was refused.

In May 1891, together with Dr Neale, George boarded a vessel on which three crew members had died of yellow fever just days earlier. After safely disinfecting the ship, he would surely have questioned his reasons for being in such employment for £2 per week and it may explain why he left the following month to be the Surveyor of Blaenavon Local Board.

Alfred Edgar Leyshon was unanimously elected Inspector of Nuisances on a salary of £105pa and the following month was appointed under the Food and Drugs Act and Diseased Animals Act. An assistant at Cardiff, he was chosen from a list of 20 applicants.

With the Cadoxton sewer system operational, he reported in September that there were 46 nuisances in Cadoxton out of 181 houses inspected, Gray & Amos had failed to empty soil pans, but Mr Ruckley was doing well.

Dr Neale felt it was important for the Inspector to have a uniform, which would identify him as someone of authority and not to be mistaken for a 'runner' or bailiff. The £9.12s cost for two uniforms was hotly debated by Oliver Jenkins, especially if he did not wear them.

At a Local Board meeting in December 1894, the Inspector gave a detailed report of the work involved in safeguarding the health of the community.

Highlights of the six year period included 3,002 notices issued on nuisances which included 213 on animals, 826 on foul accumulations and 1,097 on cesspools, drains and foul closets which needed cleansing. 6,875 houses were inspected with 448 needing disinfecting and hundreds of shops, lodging houses, workshops and the temporary slaughterhouse off Court Road. 3,640 vessels for the Port Authority had been inspected, with 237 being defective.

All of the above explained why the sanitary conditions and health of the public were so satisfactory.

Progress was being made and throughout 1895 he was able to report a clean bill of health for small businesses. However, some residents were still not complying with flushing of water closets and infected houses featured regularly as nuisances.

At a meeting of the South Wales and Monmouth Sanitary Inspectors in 1898, the president was pleased to say that Barry was now a wonderful town with first class sanitation thanks to its officials.

In May 1899 after eight years, AE Leyshon left Barry for the Forest of Dean and was greatly missed by all concerned.

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Jenner Road, Barry, The Vale Of Glamorgan CF62

• Three Bedroom, First Floor Maisonette • Entrance Hall • Living Room • Kitchen • Bathroom with Shower • Large Store Room • Very Large Rear Garden • New D/G

£114,950

Lettings

Glenbrook Drive, Barry 1 bed flat to rent

First floor flat with lounge/kitchen, bathroom, hallway and storage. No smokers, or pets, DSS considered. Available now.

£450 pcm (£104 pw)

Vere Street, Barry 1 bed property to rent

One bed flat. Close to Cadoxton rail station. Living room, kitchen, hall and bathroom. Sorry, no pets, smokers, or DSS. Available now.

£425 pcm (£98 pw)

Rhoose Road, Rhoose, Barry 2 bed property to rent

First floor flat with a garden. Living Room and kitchen. Good size bedrooms, bathroom with shower, GCH, DG, available now. Sorry,tno pets, smokers or DSS. £575 EPC to follow.

£575 pcm (£133 pw)

The Wheate Close, Rhoose, Barry 2 bed property to rent

Two bed home available for rent in Rhoose. Fitted kitchen, up-graded CH system with new boiler. Off-road parking and well kept garden to the rear. Sorry no DSS, smokers or pets.

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A look at Wenvoe – *MORE THAN 100 YEARS AGO*

A LOCAL historian, Brian Keitch of Penarth, recently discovered a number of fascinating old photographs of the area – taken by a relative more than 100 years ago!

Brian explained: "Over 100 years ago, my great grandfather, John Lewis, lived in the Penarth area and was a very keen photographer.

"A collection of the glass plates he took circa 1905 to 1910 have come down to us and provide a glimpse of what interested him all that time ago.

"The subject matter covers a number of locations in the Vale, in particular Barry, Penarth, Wenvoe and Llantwit Major.

This week's photograph should interest Wenvoe residents, as it shows Wenvoe Post Office.

The postmistress –it seems likely – is chatting (or giving instructions) to a local boy, whose pushbike is up against the wall.

At the time Wenvoe boasted an impressive country railway station on the Barry Railway 'main line' from Trehafod to Barry.

The passenger numbers were not so impressive though, with rarely more than three trains a day stopping in each direction, plus a few week-end excursions during the summer months.

The last day of passenger services was September10, 1962, by which time there was only one stopping train in each direction - to Pontypridd at 7.45 am and to Barry at 9.16 am.

The station is still in situ. In its heyday there were refuge sidings, a goods depot and a branch to nearby Alps Quarry.

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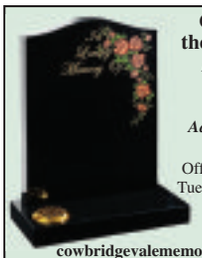

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Family Notices

SHELLARD
Anthony William

Passed away peacefully after a short illness.
'A perfect gentleman'
Sadly missed by Mary, Pam, Margaret and families. Funeral service at Barry Crematorium on Monday, December 4 at 2pm. Family flowers only.

RICCI
Patricia Grace
(Formerly of Llantwit Major)

Passed away peacefully at Llys Gwyn Care Home, aged 87 years.
Funeral service on Thursday, 7th December, in St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major at 11am, afterwards to Boverton Cemetery. At Patricia's request immediate family flowers only please.

THOMAS
Lawrence

The Thomas family announces with great sadness the loss of Lawrence, aged 82. Beloved husband of Gloria, adored father of Lawrence and Caroline, precious baba to Amber, Daisy, Anton and Elinor. Loving brother of Wendy and affectionate father-in-law to Regine.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral service and interment to be held at St Hilary Parish Church on Tuesday, 5th December at 11am. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, to The Stroke Association.

EDWARDS
Frances Elizabeth (Frankie)
(Née Boyns)

Peacefully on November 21st, Frankie of Ystradowen, aged 39 years. Dearly loved wife of Grant, wonderful mother of Isabelle and Jessica and loving daughter of Rosemary and Trevor.
Will be dearly missed by her family and friends.
Funeral Tuesday, December 5th, service at Welsh St Donats Church at 10.30am, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 12 noon.
Family flowers only. Donations, if so desired, to Marie Curie Charity c/o W.H. Preene & Son, Mwyndy, Pontyclun, CF72 8PN.
Tel 01443 223368.

MURPHY
Anne Mary

Peacefully at the St. Barruc's Ward at the Barry Hospital, Barry on November 23rd, Anne of Teifi Drive, Barry. Dearly beloved wife of John, loving step-mother of Paul, Christopher and Kathryn. Adored nanna of Beth and Ben.
She will be sadly missed by all her loving family and friends.
Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry until her funeral service in the Chapel on Tuesday, December 12th at 2pm, followed by cremation at The Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 3pm. Family flowers only, but donations in lieu of flowers to the St. Barruc's ward at the Barry Hospital, CF62 8YH.

McTAVISH
John Keith

Peacefully on 24th November at Llandough Hospital with his family at his side, John, well known for his many years of service as a police officer at Barry Police Station and within his role as a referee and the secretary of the Barry Football League. Much loved husband to Christine, devoted dad to Julian, Richard and Helen, loving grandad to all his grandchildren.
He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.
Resting at the Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until his funeral service at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church on Thursday, 7th December at 1.45pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations if desired can be made at the service to support the work of the St.Vincent de Paul Society in memory of John.

COLE
Christopher Michael
'Worzel'

Tragically on 16th November, Christopher, aged 13 of St Athan. Beautiful son of Cherrey and Shane, loving brother to Owien and Gypsy, dearly loved grandson of Sarah and Ronnie.
He will be greatly missed by his loving family and friends.
Resting at W.A. Brown Funeralcare until the service in St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major (where all are welcome) on Friday, 8th December at 1.30pm, followed by a private cremation service. Family flowers only, but donations, if wished, for Child Bereavement UK will be collected at the church service. *Casual clothing only please.*

LEES
Peter William

On 20 November at the Marie Curie Hospice, Holme Towers, Peter passed away, after a short illness, aged 75 years. Beloved husband of Carol, loving father to his two sons Victor, the late Carl and daughter-in-law Lucy. Proud and adoring grandad of Isobel.
You will stay in our hearts forever.
Resting at W.A. Brown Funeralcare until the service at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major on Thursday, 7th December at 1.30pm and afterwards at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.

CARD
Debra

Sadly at home on 15th November 2017, Debra, aged 56 years. Beloved mum of Lee, much loved daughter of Tony and the late Mo, adored nan of Jake.
Debra will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.
Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service in the Chapel of Rest on Friday, 8th December at 12.45pm, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Family flowers only, donations in lieu if so desired for The Huggard Centre c/o the funeral director.

DIXON
Theodosi William (Theo)

Suddenly on 20th November at the University Hospital of Wales, Theo passed away. Much loved husband to Amanda, loving dad to Mario, Jo, Alex, Adonia and Loucas. Adored bapou to Hazel, Athena and Amar'e.
He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.
Resting at the private chapel of The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until his service at All Saints Church, Barry on Thursday, 7th December at 9.45am, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, can be made at the service to support Dementia UK and British Heart Foundation in memory of Theo.

WEEKLEY
Irene (Née Marsh)

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on 21st November 2017, Irene, aged 93 years. Beloved wife of the late Ivor, much loved mum of Sian and Gary, loved mother-in-law, grandmother and great grandmother, dearly loved sister of the late Jack, Betty, Jimmy and Glenys.
Irene will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.
Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service in the Chapel of Rest on Friday, 15th December at 11am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Family flowers only.

MARTIN
Douglas William

Peacefully on November 23rd at home, Douglas of Barry (formerly of Penarth). Dearly loved by Stuart, Rebecca and Ann and a much loved grampy.
Will be sadly missed by his family and friends.
Funeral Friday, 8th December, service and cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 2pm.
Family flowers only. Donations, if so desired, for Marie Curie c/o W.H. Preene & Son, 54 Main Street, Cadoxton, CF63 2HN. (Tel 01446 420520).

WENDON
Jonathan Luke

Passed away on the 24th November 2017. Much loved son of the late Luke and Jean, father to Angharad and Ewan, partner to Meryl and brother to Julia.
Funeral Service to be held on Monday, 4th December 2017 at 1pm at Cardiff & Glamorgan Memorial Park & Crematorium, Port Road, Barry, CF62 9PX.
No flowers by request, but donations would be welcomed for Cancer Research UK online at https://jonathan-wendon.muchloved.com/or via the Funeral Director.
All enquiries to Parkman Funeral Home, 19 Camms Corner, Dinas Powys, CF64 4QY. Tel 02922 362101.

HAYNES
Ruth

Peacefully at home on 24th November, in her 104th year, Ruth, beloved wife of the late Gwyn and dear mum of Anne, Jill, Steve and the late John. Dearest gran of all her grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchild. Dear sister of the late Arthur.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. The funeral will take place at Coychurch Crematorium on Monday, 11th December at 10.30am.
Family flowers only please.

PARFITT
Colin Hardy

Sadly passed away at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend on the 18th November, aged 85, sadly missed by his companion Doreen.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral service will take place at the Cardiff and Glamorgan Memorial Park and Crematorium at 12 noon on Friday, 8th December. Family flowers only please, but donations, if so desired, may go to Dementia UK c/o the Funeral Director.

HAMPTON
Jeffrey

Jeff passed away peacefully on Sunday, 19th November, aged 89 years. He will be greatly missed by his sons Mark and Simon, daughter Jayne and grandchildren Richard, James, Adrian, Alec and Natalie.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral services to be held at the Church of St Curig's, Porthkerry on Friday, 1st December at 12.45pm, followed by Cardiff and Vale Crematorium, Barry at 2pm. Family flowers only.

Acknowledgements

HEMLOCK
Richard 'Richie'

Mary and family wish to thank all who attended Richie's funeral service on 17th November for their support and sympathy, the many cards, flowers and the very generous donations made in support of the Renal Unit UHW in Richie's memory.
Thank you to all staff at the Renal unit ward B5 UHW for the kind care given to Richie in what became his last few weeks. Thanks to Canon Pat O'Gorman for the beautiful service at St Helen's Church. Love and thanks to Mr Alun Phelps for his lovely reading. Also, thanks to Anthony and staff at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Barry.

DAVIES
Charmaine

Julia, Geraint, Ryan and Amy would like to thank family and friends who attended Charmaine's funeral and for their kind support, cards and messages of sympathy received during their recent sad bereavement.
Thanks also to the wonderful staff at Pen-y-Bont Care Home and Canon Edwin Counsell for his kind words of comfort. Many thanks also for the kind donations to Tŷ Hafan.
All is much appreciated.

Acknowledgements

RICHARDS
Thelma

Diane would like to thank family and friends for their support and attendance at Thelma's funeral. Kind donations totalled £235.86.
Special thanks to Father Kevin Lake for officiating and Arthur and Mary at A.G. Adams for their professional and personal service.

ASHTON
John Richard

Peacefully at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend on the 12th November, John passed away, after a short illness, aged 87 years. In accordance with his wishes, John was cremated privately on 29th November.
Thanks to Jenny at W.A. Brown Funeralcare for her help with the arrangements. Grateful thanks to everyone who helped John when he fell ill, the staff at Filco Supermarket, Dr Cheeseman and the nursing staff from Eryl Surgery, the South Wales Ambulance Service, the Resus Team and ITU at the Princess of Wales, particularly the lady who called the ambulance and stayed with John and the gentlemen who initially performed CPR. Finally, thanks to everyone who offered support and help at the time and since, it is very much appreciated. Donations, if desired, to the RAF Benevolent Fund or the RNLI c/o W.A. Brown Funeralcare, Pembroke House, College Street, Llantwit Major, CF61 1SG (cheques only).

In Memory

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Patricia Trudgian
Never a moment from our thoughts.
Love John, Jeremy, Jonathan, Jenny and all the family x.

To advertise your **Situations Vacant, Family Notices, Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc.** **Call Sue on 01446 774484. email: sales@glamorgan-gem.co.uk**

Birthdays

Happy 70th Birthday
Alan Cocks
Love you with all my heart, love your loving wife Rose & family

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Salary on application. References essential.
Please send CV to: Jeff Thomas at Penllyn Properties, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, or if you require further information call the office on 01446 774632.

Public Notices

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990, SECTION 257 AND PARAGRAPH 7 OF SCHEDULE 14 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATHS NOS 21 AND 22 WENVOE) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2016

On 7 November 2017 the Welsh Ministers confirmed the above Order with modifications.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert the public footpath running from Port Road (NGR 312235 172261) to Clos Llanfair (NGR 312105 172515) and to create an alternative footpath instead on to a line running from Port Road (NGR 312264 172318) to Clos Llanfair (NGR 312103 172517), also to divert the public footpath running through the northern section of the development between NGR 311954 172502 and NGR 312039 172587 and to create an alternative footpath instead on a line running from NGR 311954 172502 to Clos Llanfair (NGR 312103 172517) as shown on the Order map.

A copy of the confirmed Order and Order map may be seen free of charge at the Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry CF63 4RT during normal office hours. Copies of the Order and Order map may be bought there at the price of £4.50.

This Order comes into force on the date on which the Vale of Glamorgan Council certify that the terms of Article 2 of the Order have been complied with but if any person aggrieved by the Order desires to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act, or on the ground that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the order, he or she may apply to the High Court for any of these purposes under section 287 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 within 6 weeks from the date on which notice is first published as required by paragraph 7 of Schedule 14 to that Act.

Dated 30 November 2017

HYSBYSIAD CADARNHAU GORCHYMYN LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS DEDDF CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF 1990 ADRAN 257 A PHARAGRAFF 7 ATODLEN 14 GORCHYMYN DARGYFEIRIO LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS (LLWYBRAU CYHOEDDUS RHIFAU 21 A 22 GWENFÔ) CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2016

Ar 7 Tachwedd 2017, bu i Weinidogion Cymru gadarnhau'r Gorchymyn uchod gydag addasiadau.

Effaith y Gorchymyn fel yŵ cadarnhawyd fydd dargyfeirio llwybr cyhoeddus sy'n mynd o Port Road (NGR 312235 172261) i Glos Llanfair (NGR 312105 172515) a chreu llwybr cyhoeddus arall ar linell sy'n mynd o Port Road (NGR 312264 172318) i Glos Llanfair (NGR 312103 172517) a hefyd gwyro'r llwybr cyhoeddus sy'n mynd trwy ran ogleddol y datblygiad rhwng NGR 311954 172502 a NGR 312039 172587 a chreu llwybr cyhoeddus arall ar hyd llinell sy'n mynd o NGR 311954 172502 i Glos Llanfair (NGR 312103 172517) fel y dangosir ar fap y Gorchymyn.

Gellir gwneid copi o'r Gorchymyn a map y Gorchymyn fel y'u cadarnhawyd am ddim yn Swyddfa'r Dociau, Heol yr Iseldd, Y Barri, CF63 4RT yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol. Gellir prynu copïau o'r Gorchymyn a map y Gorchymyn ynio am £4.50.

Daw'r Gorchymyn hwn i rym ar y dyddiad y mae Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn ardystio y cydymffurfiwyd â thelerau Erthygl 2 y Gorchymyn ond os dymuna unrhyw berson y mae'r Gorchymyn yn peri gofid iddo neu sy'n ameau ei ddilysrwydd neu ddilysrwydd unrhyw ddarpariaeth a geir ynddo ar y sail nad yw o fewn pwerau'r Ddeddf uchod, neu ar y sail na chydymffurfiwyd ag unrhyw ofyniad dan y Ddeddf honno neu unrhyw reoliad a wneed oddi dani mewn perthynas â chadarnhau'r gorchymyn, gall y person hwnnw wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys at unrhyw un o'r diberion hyn dan Adran 287 Deddf Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref 1990 o fewn 6 wythnos o ddyddiad cyhoeddi cyntaf yr hysbysiad fel sy'n ofynnol dan baragraff 7 Atodlen 14 y Ddeddf.

Dyddiedig 30 Tachwedd 2017

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Carl Birch trading as **Atlantic Marquees** of **Cwm Ciwc Ganol Farm, Rhiwceiliog, Pencoed, Bridgend, CF35 6NR** is applying for a licence to use **Oram and Ward, Ogmore Crescent, Bridgend Industrial Estate, CF31 3TE** as an operating centre for **2** goods vehicles and **2** trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice.

Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

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Articles For Sale

ADVERTISE HERE £12 inc. VAT - box for 2 weeks. **For Motors** - £24 inc. VAT for 2 weeks. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'The Glamorgan GEM' at The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Advert must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. **Sorry no refunds are given.**

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Looking back to 1989 with Brian Lee

NEWSPAPER and magazine cuttings from my many scrapbooks of press cuttings reveal how the Vale's Evan Williams has become a leading National Hunt trainer.

Having had the pleasure and honour of reporting on the Welsh horse racing scene for more than half-a-century they go back not only to the time of Evan riding his first point-to-point winner but to the time his late father Rhys and mother Mary were riding winners between-the-flags.

The first time Evan was probably mentioned in the press was when, under the heading 'A First For Evan', I revealed in the Wales On Sunday, dated March 26, 1989, that: "Evan Williams of Llancarfan notched up his first winner in only his second ride in the first division of the restricted open at the Llangibby Hunt point-to-point steeplechases on his father's 10-year-old Cuckoo Mill."

Since then I have reported upon and written many, many race reports and articles about Evan's many successes as a rider and a trainer and now I am filing reports on the success of his amateur rider daughter Isabel.

Another Cowbridge rider who was making the news in 1989 was the then 42-year-old John Llewellyn, who, at the Brecon Hunt Steeplechases, chalked-up his 200th winner on Keith Huntley's Remember Dewy and it was at this meeting that Llewellyn rode his first four-timer.

There were 10 races on the card - I doubt if we will ever see a 10 race card ever again - and Rudry's Tim Jones took the first two of them when winning the members' race on Lynwood Lad and the adjacent on Ratochhu.

Division two of the adjacent was won by Andrew James aboard Dashalong. The men's open division one was won by Llewellyn on Solid Oak and division two of the race went to St Athan's John Thomas, who won on 14-1 chance Castle Shepherd Lad.

The odds-on favourite Gold Tycoon won the ladies' open race and the first division of the restricted went to the Vale's Kevin Cousins.

John Llewellyn took the second division on Goose Green and division three was won by Bowling Chance. There were two divisions of the maiden and Llewellyn took the first on Remember Dewy which gave him his 200th success and he ended the day by winning the second division on 6-1 chance L C Monro.

Another rider making headlines in 1989 was the Vale's Jonathan Tudor, who, after winning a hunter chase at Ludlow on St Helen's Boy on the Friday, was back in the winner's enclosure at the Monmouthshire Point-To-Point on the Saturday after landing an impressive win on Gwyn Davies' Jimsleeves.

I wrote: "In the winner's enclosure after the race, Mr Davies praised Jonathan for giving his mare a super ride. The former Cowbridge rugby player is making quite a name for himself and is enjoying his best season since he notched-up his first winner six years ago."

Welsh champion Tim Jones and Abergavenny farrier Andrew James both landed doubles but the best performance of the day came in the members' race when 32-year-old Robert Harris, of Hereford, managed to get back in the saddle and win the race after his mount Creeping Jane had made a dreadful blunder when leading at the third last fence.

The large crowd had 38 bookmakers in attendance to choose from and racecards were soon sold out.

Due to the large entry, both men's open and the maiden were divided on the field and with nine races to be decided racegoers didn't leave the course until 6.45pm. Thirty-eight bookmakers. We are lucky if we get eight bookies at a Welsh point-to-point these days.

There was a 10 race card at the 50th anniversary Curre Hunt Steeplechases at Howick near Chepstow and Tim Jones celebrated by riding his 50th winner with a double on Sweet Patrick (members' race) and Sweet Rascal (men's open division 2).

To celebrate their 50th anniversary the hunt staged an old fashioned point-to-point over natural countryside and this was won by Alison Wigley on the 5-2 favourite The Gambler.

Unfortunately for Llewellyn he came away from the meeting with a black eye after a loose horse collided with his mount Mr Moneybags in the adjacent hunts' race won by Joe Price on Wonder Willett.

*Please e-mail your stories or pictures to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or phone him on 02920736438.

YMCA Barry lords of the rings set the bar high

YMCA Barry has had even more success in the male gymnastics section at national level, with three gymnasts representing Wales during November.

ABOVE: Josh Cook and Iwan Mepham.
RIGHT: Charlie Watkins.

With determination and hard work nine-year-old Charlie Watkins, competed in the Welsh Regional Round of Elite Grade One.

This is the first elite grade in men's artistic gymnastics which is designed to start young gymnasts on the development path towards elite senior gymnastics as they get older.

Due to Charlie's performance in the competition, he qualified to represent Wales at the Men's Artistic British Elite Grade Final.

Charlie and the rest of the Elite Grade One Welsh Team travelled to compete in Birmingham against the best nine year olds in the country.

Under pressure, representing his country for the first time, Charlie executed his routines demonstrating what a mature and skilled gymnast he is.

In particular, Charlie gained two top-10 placings on high bar and vault which is an achievement in such a competitive field.

To everybody's delight, Charlie and Team Wales scored excellently throughout the competition and in the team event, Wales claimed the silver medal. A big well done to Charlie and the rest of the Welsh team.

YMCA Barry has also got two senior male gymnasts on the long list for the 2018 Commonwealth Games, Iwan Mepham and Josh Cook.

Throughout the year, Iwan and Josh have both undergone many trials to see if they can gain the necessary scores to be taken as part of Team Wales to the Commonwealth Games which take place next year in Australia.

Their last trial took place last weekend in Scotland for the Home Nations Championships.

Both Iwan and Josh showed the selectors that they deserve a place in the team.

Individually, Josh received fourth on pommel horse, second on rings, fourth on vault, fourth on parallel bars, second on high bar and became the floor champion.

As Josh is an all-around gymnast who competes on all six pieces of apparatus, his scores were combined and he took second in the all-around event.

At just 17 years old, Josh is making a big impression on the senior stage.

Iwan also impressed with claiming second on rings, and became champion on parallel bars and high bar.

A very impressive set of results, where a YMCA Barry gymnast won three out of the six apparatus finals.

Iwan, Josh and the rest of the Welsh team also become the team champions.

An excellent couple of weeks for men's artistic in YMCA Barry.

Josh and Iwan have done all they can leading up to the Commonwealth Games selection where everyone will now wait nervously to see which gymnasts will be travelling to Australia next year.

YMCA Barry offers gymnastics classes to all ages and abilities, from toddlers to elite level gymnastics for males and females.

In the new year, YMCA Barry will expand its timetable to increase classes for preschool, recreational, 'cheerleading', teen and adult gymnastics as well as adult fitness classes.

For more information please call us on 01446 724000, email sophie@ymcabarry.org.uk or follow on Facebook @ymcabarry. **AS**

Vale of Glamorgan Pool League news

THE much-anticipated top of the table clash between the Vale Asprou Barbers league leaders Billy United against second place Castle Dark Lords certainly lived up to it's top billing.

The Billy side started all guns blazing racing into a 4-0 lead with wins from the Roberts brothers Gary and Ian, John Farrugia and Mark Ingram.

The Dark Lords would fight back and win the first session of doubles through Gareth Foxall and Sean Kelly followed by Wayne Hobson and Matthew Tobin.

The Castle's Tobin would then win his next singles match, beating one of the leagues most accomplished players, Gary Roberts.

John Farrugia would then do the double over Gavin Rowlands to make the score 5-3 to the Billy. Back came the Dark Lords with Brian Harris and Wayne Hobson both winning 5-5.

The last set of doubles would see Ashton and Ingram make it 6-5 to the Billy, then came a touch of magic from Matthew Tobin who would break off and clear up all in one visit to leave a sudden death black ball shoot out, with Gary Roberts holding his nerve to nail his black for a much-deserved bonus point win for the Billy.

Overall a great game and a good advert for the league.

Over at the Witchill the Wildcats would take advantage of the top two playing each other and fielded their strongest team this season with Barry's number one pool player Chris Bardsley leading the destruction of the Ship.

The Wildcats would take no chances and played the same line-up in both sessions of singles with Ian Hill, Ceri Morris and James Hill joining Bardsley in a format that would see them win seven out of the eight frames they played, with only Mike Egan getting the better of James Hill.

This was an outstanding performance by the Witchill and they thoroughly deserved their 11-1 victory, with support from Lawrence Klee , Paul Everest and Sian Kedward, that now sees them leap frog the dark lords into second place, just behind Billy United with a game in hand - the league could not be any tighter at the top.

Over at Millwood Bowls Club the Pot Jacks would entertain the young blood of the Baruc Arms - but their flamboyant potting style was just too much for the old heads of Millwood Pot Jacks, falling behind 1-3, a lead that was just too far for them to catch.

Man of the match Nick Parry would win all four of his matches in style for the Pot Jacks, to finally lose 7-5 in some close-run frames in a fun-filled evening of pool.

The Baruc Arms' star player was Gavin Stevens, also winning four out of four, with teammates Calum Petty, Kevin Turnbull and Nick Meadows also shining.

The Libs Rejects had a hard fought 7-5 victory over the Glenbrook Wanderers; the Libs stormed into a 6-1 lead before the Glenbrook fought back with singles victories from Nick Taylor, Jeff Bartle and Rhodri Thomas, before Tom Ivins and Mike Roberts ensured victory for the Libs.

Man of the match Tom Ivins stole the show with his performance, with a 100 per cent record winning all four of his matches.

The King William IV pub in Cadoxton would host O'Briens in a close-fought match that saw all frames being keenly contested.

At the halfway point the scores were level at 3-3 with Jeff Morgan and Martyn Croke impressing for O'Briens.

The second session of singles would see the king William dominate and win three out of the four frames with Neil Tipples impressing in his controlled and well-thought-out winning frame.

The standout performance came from the experienced Les Hunt in winning three out of four frames to give the Cadoxton team a deserved 7-5 win.

The draw for the League Cup will be held in the next couple of weeks and the Baruc Arms are looking for two new players to join their side - please text Joe on 07870 498738 or phone Anthony on 07568 444180.

The league would like to thank their sponsors Asprou Barbers Park Crescent, Eze Drive Driving School and R&M Mobile Valeting.

JB

Two defeats for Barry chess teams shows consistency

ANOTHER week, another two games for the Barry Chess Club and another two losses - we are nothing if not consistent.

In Division 1 the Bosons travelled to Cardiff to take on the Castles. The Castles seem to win the title every year although it seems likely that they may finish second this season.

They put out their strongest team with four players rated over 2000. Although we were outrated on every board, wins from Steve Cunliffe and Ken Hannah ensured it would be a close match.

We may have lost 3-2 but we seem to be avoiding the relegation fight. We have 17 points so far and are 5.5 points above the team in eighth place but the bottom three teams all have a game in hand.

In Division 2 it was the Camelots turn to play. They were at home to the Nelson Rhinos.

The game ended in a 3-2 defeat for the Camelots who now drop back into the relegation spots. The Camelots' points came from a win by John Ryles and draws from Chris Green and Tom Cooke.

The Camelots are only half a point behind their nearest rivals the Cardiff Crowns win one game to play before we reach the halfway stage in the season.

The round nine match for the Camelots could be decisive in their relegation fight as we play the Crowns at home.

However as this match is not scheduled until early December there is plenty of time to practice.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at barry chessclub.yolasite.com.

PHIL JONES

The Vale of Glamorgan Football League round-up

A weather-decimated league schedule saw only a handful of games played.

SP Billy failed to close the gap on leaders Sully Sports as Cogan Coronation won 2-0 over SP. The result puts Cogan fourth after Tynewydd lost 2-1 to Cadoxton Athletic. Down the bottom of Division One Penarth Town B edged out Cadoxton Imps 3-2.

In Division Two, St Athan B picked up their second win of the season to defeat Vale Madrid 3-1. Llantwit Major leap frog Vale Madrid into second place as they continued their perfect record with a 5-0 hammering of BV.

In SWFA Cup action, the Vale's interest in the cup is now over as all three remaining Vale clubs crashed out. Island Marine lost out 6-2 to AFC Whitchurch, Cardiff Airport were thrashed 5-0 by Cwm Welfare, while Vale United narrowly lost out to Penrhiwceiber Cons 2-1.

A full league program returns this week with game of the day undoubtedly in the Premier Division as FC Barry Belgrade host league leaders Barry Athletic.

HD

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16 16 MERCEDES GLC250d Sport (Premium) 4MATIC 5dr 9-G, Mercedes warranty June 2019, sat nav, panoramic roof, reverse camera, Bluetooth, black, full cream leather **£31495**
14 64 MERCEDES SLK250 CDI Blueefficiency 2dr convertible 7G-Tronic Plus, airscarf-neck level heating, Bluetooth, iridium silver, full leather.....**£14995**
16 66 MINI CLUBMAN 2.0 D COOPER 6dr, sat nav, chilli pack, 10k, white **£15995**
14 14 MINI COOPER 1.5 D 3dr Start/Stop, chili pack, cruise, Bluetooth, in blue with white roof and mirror caps **£8995**
15 15 MINI COOPER 1.5 D 5dr, chilli + media XL + TLC pack, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, half-leather, 19k, met blue **£11995**
16 66 MINI COOPER 1.5 D 5dr (Media XL & Chili pack) MINI warranty Sep 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, black, half leather **£13995**
11 61 MINI COOPER 2.0 D 2dr convertible automatic (chilli pack) bluetooth, 17"alloys, 35k, white.....**£8995**
16 65 MINI COOPER 2.0 SD 5dr (170bhp), chilli pack, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, DAB, 9k, choice.....**£13995**
14 14 MINI ONE 1.6 D 3dr (Pepper pack) Bluetooth, 31k, blue.....**£7995**
15 65 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER 2.2 DI-D GX3 5dr (7-Seater), cruise, pdc, Bluetooth, 9k, black.....**£17995**
16 16 NISSAN JUKE 1.2 DIG-T Tekna 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, cruise, Bluetooth, 10k, met grey **£11995**
15 65 NISSAN JUKE 1.6 Acenta Premium 5dr Xtronic auto, Nissan warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, reverse camera, 22k, met red **£11495**
13 13 NISSAN JUKE 1.5 DCI Tekna 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, choice, full leather.....**£7995**
15 65 NISSAN JUKE 1.5 DCI Tekna 5dr, Nissan warranty Nov 2018, sat nav, reverse camera, 13k, red, full leather **£10995**
14 64 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.2 DIG-T Acenta 5dr, crusie, Bluetooth, USB, 24k, silver **£11495**
14 64 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Acenta Premium 5dr, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, Bluetooth, 24k, choice.....**£11995**
14 64 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Tekna 5dr, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, 23k, choice, full leather **£13995**
15 65 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Tekna 5dr, pan roof, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 19"alloys, heated seats, 15k, silver, full leather **£15495**
14 14 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI Tekna 5dr X-Tronic automatic, sat nav, pan roof, cruise, Bluetooth, heated seats, 18k, in mocha with full leather **£14995**
15 15 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI Acenta Premium 5dr (130BHP), Nissan warranty May 2018, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, met red.....**£12995**
15 65 NISSAN QASQHAI 1.6 DCI N-TEC+ 5dr, Nissan warranty Sep 2018, sat nav, reverse camera, grey **£14995**
1**6 16 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Acenta 4x4** 5dr(7-seater) Nissan warranty April 2019, pan roof, cruise, 12k, black.....**£16995**
14 14 PEUGEOT 108 1.0 Active 3dr, Bluetooth, DAB, USB, 19k, silver **£5295**
15 65 PEUGEOT 108 1.0 Active 3dr, Peugeot warranty Dec 2018, DAB, Bluetooth, USB, 8k, blue **£6195**
14 64 PEUGEOT 108 1.2 VTI Pure Tech Feline 3dr, DAB, reverse camera, privacy glass, 25k, black, full leather **£6495**
16 16 PEUGEOT 108 1.2 PureTech Allure 5dr, Peugeot warranty May 2019, Bluetooth, DAB, 8k, white **£7995**
16 66 PEUGEOT 208 1.6 BlueHDI Allure 5dr, Peugeot warranty Nov 2019, Bluetooth, DAB, alloys, 10k, blue **£9495**
15 65 PEUGEOT 5008 1.6 BlueHDI Active 5dr (7-seater) Peugeot warranty Nov 2018, cruise, 17"alloys, 14k, grey **£11495**
12 62 PEUGEOT RCZ 1.6 THP Sport 2dr coupe, 18"alloys, cruise, Bluetooth, 42k, grey **£8995**
13 13 RENAULT CLIO 1.2 Dynamique Media Nav 5dr, sat nav, cruise, 28k, red **£6295**
14 64 RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5 DCI Dynamique MediaNav Energy 5dr, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 18k, white **£9495**
15 65 RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5 DCI Energy Dynamique S 5dr auto, Renault warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, Bluetooth, PDC, white.....**£10995**
15 65 RENAULT SCENIC Xmod 1.6 DCI Energy Dynamique 5dr, Renault warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, PDC, 16k, choice **£9495**
16 16 SEAT LEON 1.2 TSI SE Sport Coupe 3dr, Seat warranty Aug 2019, cruise, Bluetooth, USB, 5k, red.....**£9995**
16 16 SKODA FABIA 1.2 TSI Colour Edition 5dr, cruise, DAB, Bluetooth, 15k, white with black roof.....**£9495**
16 66 SKODA OCTAVIA 2.0 TDI SE L 5dr, Skoda warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, DAB, 7k, choice **£12995**
17 17 SKODA OCTAVIA 2.0 TDI SE L Estate, Skoda warranty July 2020, sat nav, Bluetooth, DAB, only 700 miles, met blue **£17495**
10 10 TOYOTA AURIS 1.33 VVT-I TR 5dr, climate, PDC, USB, 42k, blue **£4495**
14 64 TOYOTA AYGO 1.0 VVT-I 5dr, Toyota warranty Dec 2019, USB, PAS, 34k, white.....**£5495**
14 14 TOYOTA VERSO 1.8 V-Matic Icon M-drive S 5dr automatic (7-seater) reverse camera, Bluetooth, cruise, silver.....**£10995**
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15 15 VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.7 CDTI ecoFLEX Techline 5dr 4WD, sat nav, cruise, PDC, 20k, choice.....**£10995**
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15 65 VW GOLF 1.4 TSI BlueMotion Tech GTE 5dr DSG, VW warranty Oct 2018, 18"alloys, cruise, Bluetooth, privacy glass, 20k, silver.....**£21495**
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14 64 VOLVO S60 2.0 D4 SE 4dr (181bhp), sat nav, cruise, dab, heated seats, 37k, black **£11995**
16 16 VOLVO XC60 2.4 D5 R-Design 5dr auto AWD, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, heated seats, 20k, black, half-leather.....**£22995**

£13995

11 61 BMW Z4 23i M Sport Highline SDRIVE 2dr convertible, 19"alloys, Bluetooth, heated seats, 21k, white, full red leather

£19995

16 16 MERCEDES GLA200 CDI Sport 7G-DCT automatic, cruise, Bluetooth, 12k, in black with full leather

£20995

15 15 BMW 430 D Luxury Gran Coupe 4dr auto, BMW warranty May 2018, electric glass sunroof, sat nav, Harman kardon, 34k, grey, full leather

£4495

12 12 FIAT 500 1.2 Pop 3dr, 37k, white

£9995

15 64 RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5 DCI Dynamique S Media Nav 5dr, Renault warranty Feb 2018, sat nav, PDC, cruise, 17k, cream

£17995

14 64 BMW 318 D M Sport Estate automatic, Bluetooth, 19"alloys, 19k, estoril blue, full leather

£12995

15 15 BMW 118 2.0 D Sport 5dr, BMW warranty April 2018, sat nav, sport plus pack, 18"alloys, 28k, red

£18995

14 64 MERCEDES E220 CDI AMG Sport Cabriolet 7G-Tronic Plus, sat nav, airscarf heating, choice, full leather

£8995

15 65 NISSAN NOTE 1.2 N-Tec 5dr, Nissan warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, reverse camera, 11k, white

£9995 +VAT

14 64 NISSAN NAVARA 2.5 DCI Tekna Double Cab Pick-Up 4dr, sat nav, reverse camera, cruise, Bluetooth, heated seats, choice with full leather

£18995

15 15 BMW 520 D M Sport Estate automatic, BMW warranty April 2018, pro nav, 18"alloys, 31k, black, full leather

£13995

14 64 MERCEDES A180 CDI Sport 5dr, cruise, Bluetooth, 35k, choice

£13995

14 64 MINI COOPER 2.0 COOPER S 3dr (TLC Pack)(192bhp), JCW bodykit, Harman Kardon, 17"black alloys, 16k, volcanic orange, half leather

£15495

16 66 BMW 116 D M Sport 5dr, BMW warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, 18"alloys, Bluetooth, grey

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Ruby Lee impresses as Rising Sun students battle it out

THIRTEEN members of the Rising Sun Kyokushinkai Karate Club travelled up to Slough Leisure Centre to take part in this year's British Karate Championships.

The day started off with Harry Tilby placing third in the mens event, beating three opponents over six rounds of contact fighting.

Next up was the Barry team of six junior fighters, only just missing out on the win against Mountain Ash as the two Welsh teams went head to head with a 3-2 win for Mountain Ash.

In the next event, selected to fight for Wales, Ruby-Lee Bennett won both of her fights against the Ireland team and also England, gaining her a first place gold medal for the Welsh team and her first international championship first prize.

Ruby-Lee also fought tremendously well in the individual age 9-10 mixed boys and girls category, only just missing the finals by one judge's decision against her Welsh teammate.

The junior boy from Cwmbran she fought in a previous Welsh Championships not long ago, just took the win after an epic quarter final battle, but Ruby-Lee, gaining two awards, was pleased with her performance, and said: "I'm happy with the outcome and pleased with the results from the day; after six fights I achieved what I wanted, so am proud to have a gold medal and trophy."

Morgan Evans took out three opponents with class skills and scored 'Ippon' with a head kick against her third English opponent and made it to the semi-finals, only just missing out on the final place by one point, and a well-deserved third place was gained.

Lloyd Jones also made it to the semi-finals only to get fouled by his opponent with an excessive contact blow to the body that got the opponent disqualified and Lloyd was unable to continue.

Lloyd also took a bronze medal home for his courage and braveness. After getting injured, he wanted to carry on, although the doctors advised him to pull out and he took their professional advice.

Will Bennett, attempting his second national competition, also gained bronze by beating three opponents consecutively, only to just be beaten to the mark in the semi-finals by a strong English opponent who scored just a few more points.

Will held his own and stayed standing throughout the bout and was pleased with his result after his first British challenge and semi-final placing.

Fighting exceptionally well, Oscar Bennett got to the second round only to just get beaten by a well-rounded London based fighter.

Oscar is the current under-10s Welsh champion and commented that he will be back next year, and has the 2018 British Championships in his sights.

Other fighters – Kiron Kerr, Jake Tressider, Katia Hewitson, Jamie Jones, Wilson Wong And Rhys Westall – all fought considerably well only just missing out on the win at the event.

The Rising Sun Club would like thank the coaches, Ian Nicholas, David Jenkins and Lewis Giles for the preparation towards the event.

Lee And Spencer Bennett, the club instructors, would also like to thank the parents for their support and club sponsors Wheelie Smart, Cardiff Auto Spray, Barry PC 'n' Mobiles, Bennetts Removals, Slabi Clothing, and The Baruc Arms.

If anybody is interested in training with the club, come along for a first free lesson, juniors 6.30pm-7.30pm and seniors 8pm-9pm at the Barry Island Community Centre or call Lee on 07811110368.

LB

Ruby Lee and Oscar Benett.

Nick makes comeback ride

FORMER Welsh champion point-to-point rider Ogmore-by-Sea's Nick Williams (32), who hung up his race riding boots at the end of the 2014/15 season, failed in his first comeback ride at the Bishops Court Racing Club's Point-To-Point at Ottery St Mary last Sunday.

Riding the well-fancied favourite *Champione*, he failed to complete the restricted race which was won by David Brace's *Doc Cody*. Brace, who also won the conditions race with his *Colorado Doc*, told the press: "*Doc Cody's* dam, *Brydferth Ddu*, which means 'Black Beauty', won a maiden race for us and has also bred our winning pointer *Bob The Butcher*."

Both winners were ridden by Bradley Gibbs.

There was another success from a horse trained in the Pyle area, where Mr Brace has his Dunraven Stud farm, when Sherree Lean's *Moreece* won the intermediate race under Will Biddick.

A former inmate of Tim Vaughan's Aberthin yard, this little horse (he's only 15.2 hh) is, according to his owner, "a little dynamite".

Could readers help me to fill in the vacant years? I have a list of the Welsh champion point-to-point riders, male and female, who have won the Dillwyn and Barbara Thomas awards from 1987 to 2016, but I need to know who were the recepients before then, as Dillwyn and Barbara first put up their trophies in 1971.

You can e-mail your racing news or views to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or call 02920 736438. **BRIAN LEE**

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2011 Audi A3 1.6 Technik 3dr JUST 33,000 MILES FSH BIG SPEC, Red, YE61FHH £7,490

2013 Mercedes-Benz E Class 3.0 E350 CDI BlueTEC AMG Sport 7G-Tronic Plus 4dr JUST 24,000 MLS : NAV : LTHR, Grey, KN63KYT £18,990

2015 Mercedes-Benz CLS 2.1 CLS220 AMG Line Shooting Brake 5dr (start/stop) NAVIGATION LEATHER 1 OWNER, Grey, 25,000 miles, WJ65UJS £23,990

2013 Toyota 2.0 D-4S GT86 3dr NAVIGATION BLUETOOTH FSH, 69,000 miles, White, MJ13GTZ £11,790

2007 Land Rover Defender 90 2.2 TD XS Station Wagon DPF 3dr PRIME EXAMPLE FSH 7 STAMPS, 50,000 miles, Blue, BG57YXD £22,995

2015 BMW 5 Series 2.0 520d SE Touring 5dr 1 OWNER : FSH : NAV LTHR DAB, Grey, AU15XKG £13,990

2013 Volkswagen Golf 1.4 TSI S Hatchback DSG 5dr (start/stop) £30 TAX LOW INS 65.7 MPG FSH, Silver, FY13ABU £7,995

2010 Mercedes-Benz C Class 6.3 C63 AMG 7G-Tronic 4dr 7 X MERCEDES STAMPS FSH NAV, Silver, 54,5000 miles, OV10KZT £22,995

2016 Mercedes-Benz Gla Class 2.1 GLA220 AMG Line 7G-DCT 4MATIC 5dr (start/stop) PERFECT ONE OWNER 14,000 FMSH, Silver, EG16MDX £23,490

2013 Ford KA 1.2 Edge 3dr (start/stop) JUST 31,500 MILES FSH BIG SPEC, Red, CE13ZLX £3,990

2016 Mercedes-Benz B Class B250e Electric Art Auto 5dr 3,000 LTHR : NAVIGATION : CAM, White, RE16WCO £19,990

2009 Mazda MX-5 2.0 Sport Tech Roadster 2dr PHONE : BOSE AUDIO : LEATHER, Grey, SL09FFR £6,490

2015 BMW 1 Series 1.5 118i M Sport Sports Hatch 5dr (start/stop), 1 OWNER 13,000 miles, NAVIGATION HIFI, White, KV65ZRG £15,990

2012 BMW X5 3.0 40d M Sport xDrive 5dr (start/stop) 59,500 MLS FSH NAV PANROOF DAB, Black, VK62ZDH £22,490

2016 Ford Focus 2.0 T EcoBoost ST-3 Estate 5dr (start/stop) FSH 1 OWNER NAVIGATION SYNC 3, 6,000 miles, Grey, CK66PSX £20,990

2013 BMW X1 2.0 20d Sport xDrive 5dr 4X4 1 OWNER BLUTOOTH, 30,000 miles, Grey, SN13RTV £12,990

2015 Mercedes-Benz E Class 2.1 E220 CDI BlueTEC AMG Night Edition 7G-Tronic Plus 5dr 1 OWNER : FSH : 36,000 MLS NAV, Grey, FL65VOT £19,990

2014 Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi Acenta Premium 5dr 17,000 MLS FSH NAV 1 OWNER PDC, Silver, YH64OVE £12,490

2015 Volkswagen Golf 2.0 TSI BlueMotion Tech GTI (Performance pack) Hatchback 5dr (start/stop) 24,000 MLS FSH NAV 18" ALLOYS, Red, MD64UJP £19,495t

2014 Vauxhall Mokka 1.4 16v Turbo Tech Line 5dr (start/stop), NAVIGATION 18"ALLOYS, 8,000 miles, silver, LX64YEG £10,490

2015 Mercedes-Benz A Class 1.5 A180 CDI Sport Edition 7G-DCT 5dr (E6) 1 OWNER : 24,000 MLS FSH NAV, Grey, FP15GZD £14,490

2015 BMW 2 Series 2.0 218d M Sport Auto 2dr (start/stop) 1 OWNER FSH FULL LEATHER DAB, 30,000 miles, White, LT65NZS £17,990

2015 Mercedes-Benz E Class 2.1 E220 CDI BlueTEC SE 7G-Tronic Plus 5dr ONLY 50,000 MLS FSH NAV LTHR, Black, WR15HDO £17,495

2011 Volkswagen Polo 1.4 SEL DSG 5dr 15,500 MLS VW HISTORY CAMBELT, Grey, EK61YLN £8,790

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2013 BMW X3 3.0 30d M Sport xDrive 5dr FSH : NAVIGATION : DAB : XENON, Grey, Automatic, YK13DDJ £16,995

2013 Audi A4 Avant 2.0 TFSI S Line S Tronic Quattro 5dr FSH AUDI : BIG SPEC RARE Q/TRO, 65,000 miles, Red, VO13KUR £14,490

2011 Land Rover Range Rover Evoque 2.2 SD4 Prestige Coupe 4x4 3dr, FSH 6 X STAMPS CAM LTHR XENON, Black, AU61YLY £16,990

2014 BMW X5 3.0 40d SE xDrive 5dr (start/stop) BANG & OLUFSEN : 7 SEAT : LTHR, Black, LG14KKO £26,995

2013 Mercedes-Benz SLK 2.1 SLK250 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY AMG Sport 7G-Tronic Plus 2dr (start/stop) AIRSCARF : LEATHER : AMG PACK, 48,000 miles, Black, HF63WVC £14,490

2015 Audi A3 1.6 TDI S Line Hatchback 3dr 29,500 MLS FSH DAB : 18"ALLOYS, Black, MD15EFT £14,995

2011 Land Rover Discovery 4 3.0 SD V6 XS 4X4 5dr 42,000 MLS FSH NAV LTHR PDC, Grey, DA61AUO £22,490

2012 Mercedes-Benz C Class 2.1 C220 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY AMG Sport Sport Coupe 7G-Tronic Plus 2dr, 20,000 MLS FSH 61.4 MPG AMG, Black, KE12HTV £13,495

2014 Volkswagen Golf 2.0 TDI BlueMotion Tech GTD Hatchback 3dr ONLY 27,500 MLS FSH : 1 OWNER, Red, PO14YCW ...£14,490

2014 Audi A3 1.6 TDI S Line Sportback 5dr FSH NAVIGATION 18"ALLOYS, 50,000 miles, Silver, HV14LHU £13,290

2013 Audi Q3 2.0 TDI S Line 5dr EXCEPTIONAL NAVIGATION FSH, Black, AE63RVP .....£12,490 no VAT

2013 Land Rover Range Rover Evoque 2.2 SD4 Dynamic Hatchback AWD 5dr, Red, JUST 41,700 MLS FSH 1 OWNER, LT63HTP £23,990

2013 BMW 3 Series 2.0 320d BluePerformance Sport Touring 5dr (start/stop) JUST 1 OWNER : FSH : NAV LTHR, Blue, RJ13WRA £11,790

2015 Ford Transit Custom 2.2 TDCi ECOnetic 290 L1H2 Panel Van 5dr 1 OWNER 40,000MLS FORD HISTORY, White, BD15ZHA ...£10,490

2011 BMW Alpina D3 Bi-Turbo 31,000 MLS FSH NAV : 19"ALLOYS, Black, FJ61KSX £17,990

2015 Ford Kuga 2.0 TDCi Titanium Station Wagon 5dr JUST 40,000 MLS 1 OWNER FSH, Blue £12,490

2010 Volkswagen Golf 2.0 TDI BlueMotion Tech Match 5dr 67,000 FSH NAV REV CAM DYN AUDIO, Black, AK60SNZ £6,995

2014 Vauxhall Mokka 1.7 CDTi ecoFLEX 16v Exclusiv FWD 5dr (start/stop) 1 OWNER : £30 TAX : 70.6 MPG, 32,000 miles, Red, CA14HCX £8,990

2017 Volkswagen Golf 2.0 TDI SE Nav Hatchback DSG 5dr (start/stop) NEW MODEL 2,500 MLS NAVIGATION, Grey, DF17KYZ £17,490

2003 Toyota Corolla 1.4 VVT-i T2 5dr EXCEPTIONAL 2 OWNERS 26000 MLS, Silver, DN53EGE £2,990

2008 Land Rover Defender 110 2.4 TDi Hard Top 3dr STUNNING EXAMPLE "NO VAT", Silver, NX58YNT .....£12,990 no VAT

2010 BMW 5 Series 2.0 520d SE Touring 5dr FSH 3 X STAMPS : LEATHER : PDC, Automatic, Blue, NX60EUO £10,490

2014 Peugeot 508 2.0 HDi FAP Allure 4dr (Nav) 1 OWNER NAVIGATION CAMERA FSH, Black, 44,000 miles, EA64DCU £9,795

2015 Mercedes-Benz C Class 2.1 C250d AMG Line 5dr (start/stop) FSH 1 OWNER NAVIGATION LTHR, 39,000 miles, Grey, WD15VPE £20,790

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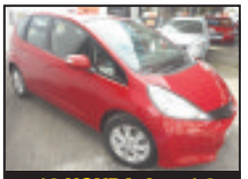

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59 RANGE Rover Sport 3.0 TDV6 HSE Auto In black with black leather, high spec, tv entertainment £16,995
10 BMW 530 SE Diesel Auto In silver with black leather, sat nav, 85,000 miles, host of extras £10,995
10 AUDI TT 1.8 FSi Convertible In white, 43,000 miles, very nice example £10,995
60 LEXUS i250 Advance Automatic In met grey with cream leather, only 19,000 miles from new, drives superb, sat nav and bluetooth £10,995
14 NISSAN Juke 1.5 DCi Tekna In red, 42,000 miles, sat nav, leather etc £9,995
14 SKODA Octavia 1.6TDi CRS Elegance Auto 5-Dr In white/black leather, 45,000 miles, sat nav £9,995
12 BMW X1 XDrive 2.0 DSE In met red, black interior, 66,000 miles, diesel 4x4 .....£9,995
11 VOLKSWAGEN Touran 1.6 TDi SE Blue-Tech In met blue, 63,000 mile, diesel 7 seater £9,995
15 CITROEN C4 Cactus 1.2 Flare Pure Tech In white, 19,000 miles, under manufacturers warranty £9,295
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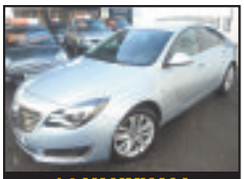

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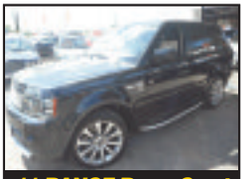

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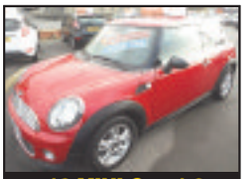

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A cold night in 'Hell' for Cowbridge RFC firsts

THE evening before the Wales-New Zealand game, Cowbridge first XV again ventured into the Rhondda for a frosty 7pm kick off against Treherbert.

The enclosed pitch with 10ft high fence and vocal supporters added to the occasion, while the words 'Welcome to Hell' on the wall to the stand gave a nice warm feeling to the night.

Treherbert, known as The Devils, were a much bigger outfit but the early scrums went in Cowbridge's favour.

However, that didn't last long and the home team, with lots of possession and a simple game plan, popping the recycled ball to forwards or backs to charge into Cowbridge and make ground.

The first score was a penalty to Treherbert that their outside half put over. The referee wasn't kind to Cowbridge and a string of penalties in favour of the home team in the last 10 minutes of the half led to a kick to touch. A catch and drive from the lineout followed with a try and conversion, the half-time score 10-0.

Exhorted by coaches Leigh Davies and Dan Williams to give even more and take any chances that came their way, Cowbridge defended everything Treherbert threw at them.

Five changes were made but each player took up where the starting player had left off. At the end the home side, gripped by white line fever, blew any number of chances as Cowbridge defended wave after wave of attacks until the referee cruelly awarded a home penalty with the last kick of the match to make the final score 13-0.

It would be wrong to single out any player for what was a great defensive team effort, with possession in short supply.

Things don't get any easier as the team take on second-placed Ynysowen on December 9 at home, then Wattstown a week later again at home, while the youth are in action on December 16, also at home, to Mountain Ash – all kick offs are at 2.30pm.

Good luck to Wales in their final autumn international against South Africa on Saturday.

RV/RK

A new kit for Peterston Junior FC

Peterston Junior FC proudly show off their new kit.

THE parents and Premier League stars of tomorrow from Peterston Junior FC were delighted to play in their new kits at the Barry Sports Centre, provided by their new sponsors LloydBell Productions of Cardiff and CM Utilities Group of Bridgend. The boys and girls looked great as they took to the pitch and wore the new kit with pride!

Fine win for Llantwit Major AFC

FOLLOWING Llantwit Major AFC's thrilling and entertaining game against Aberdare where we saw eight goals, three players sent off and three penalties being awarded, they travelled to face Porth who stand currently at the bottom of the league table.

Manager Karl Lewis had to make a number of changes for this game, with five players not available after the Aberdare game due to suspensions, injury and illness.

Therefore, it was a welcome return at centre forward for Max Morgan following a long period out of the side due to injury and Craig Reddy also returned to the midfield following his recent suspension.

As expected, Llantwit Major started attacking from the start against a side that have been struggling from the start of the season and have not won a game to date.

Despite all our early pressure it was Jack Lansdown who had to make the first save of the game when he got down low to a shot at goal from the Porth attack.

Porth did not make it easy for themselves when they had a player sent off after 27 minutes from what appeared to be a raised elbow in the face of one of the Llantwit Major players.

It was all one-way traffic with Porth bravely defending and it was becoming rather frustrating standing on the side in that various chances went begging with Max having two opportunities to open the scoring but both his shots went wide of the goal.

On 38 minutes, a fine inside pass from Rob Jones saw Connor Goldsworthy make a run into the goal area and he was subsequently fouled and a penalty was awarded.

However, to everyone's surprise, our ever-reliable penalty taker Rob blasted the ball high and wide of the goals. A few minutes later we finally scored; a short corner and a cross in from Connor saw Glyn's header hit the cross bar and the rebound fall to Josh Jones who managed to scramble the ball into the net on his second attempt, the half-time score 1-0.

The second half started with us again dominating possession and controlling the game and after only four minutes of the second half the Porth goalie had to make a fine save from Rob Jones.

A few minutes later Llantwit scored our second goal when another fine run from Connor Goldsworthy and a cross to the far post saw Kristian nip in to head home.

Jonathan Fletcher then had a shot deflected for a corner and from another corner a few minutes later Rhys Llewelyn saw his shot on the turn hit the Porth goalie on the leg and go for another corner.

From the resultant corner Glyn's shot again on the turn when he was running away from goal ended up in the back of the net for Llantwit's third goal.

At this stage we were comfortably in control of the game and Porth never threatened the Llantwit goal.

Jack did not have to make a save in the second half and for most of the half was merely a spectator.

As the game was drawing to a close Kyran who had earlier came on as a sub had his shot saved by the Porth goalie when he broke through on goal.

Overall, this was a fine 3-0 away win and good performance from the team in keeping a clean sheet after the previous high-scoring Aberdare game.

DJ

Cowbridge Darts League round-up

ON Tuesday, November 21, the mixed doubles competition was completed at the Victoria Inn.

It was an evening of excellent darts. The quarter-finals were all won 2-0 – Lisa and Tony Gratton (Six Bells Inn) defeating Fiona Rolfe and Dai Kidman (Edmondes A), Kaitlin Brace and Ben Davies (One Town Hall Square) defeating Kathy Fordham and Mark Edwards (Victoria Inn), Sally and Rob McCaver (Hairy Farmers) defeating Michaela Bradwick and Trevor Morgan (Edmondes A) and Pam Adams and Tony Fox (Farmers Arms) defeating Allyson Thompson and Mike Newble (Llanharry).

In the first semi-final Lisa and Tony Gratton won against Sally and Rob McCaver – the score 2-0. The first match to go all the way was the second semi-final, in which Pam Adams and Tony Fox won 2-1 against Kaitlin Brace and Ben Davies.

The final was a closely-contested match, in which Lisa and Tony Gratton defeated Pam Adams and Tony Fox, 3-2, to become this year's mixed doubles champions.

The evening witnessed a number of very high outs: Tony Gratton hit a 119 (three-dart-out) as well as a 100 (two-dart-out) and Rob McCaver also joined the 100 or higher out club with a 104 (three-dart-out).

Present league standings, after eight weeks, are: Edmondes B (46 points), Llanharry and Six Bells Inn (44), Highwayman Inn (40), Hairy Farmers (39), Edmondes C (34), Edmondes A (33), Farmers Arms (29), Victoria Inn (25), One Town Hall Square (16) and Red Lion Inn (10).

Next week, on Tuesday December 5, another full programme of league matches will be played. The Red Lion Inn hosts the Edmondes A, the Victoria Inn hosts the One Town Hall Square, Llanharry hosts the Six Bells Inn, the Edmondes B hosts the Edmondes C and the Hairy Farmers hosts the Highwayman Inn. The Farmers Arms have a bye.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

Under-12s edged out by Pentyrch

COWBRIDGE RFC under-12s made the short journey to local rivals Pentyrch RFC on Sunday.

With both teams in fine form of late, the match was evenly balanced from the start. Cowbridge managed to build momentum and secure territorial advantage in the opening period.

Patient build-up was finally rewarded with Cowbridge striking out wide on the left wing with Ollie Stancombe showing a clear turn of pace for the try, successfully converted by James Collingridge.

The middle-third of the encounter saw Cowbridge pull further ahead with some strong rucking securing the ball for the backline to work the ball free and Joe Davies go over with some strong running.

Sam Sheppard successfully converted taking the score to 14-0.

Pentyrch, however, failed to let the game slip away from them and struck back with two quick tries on the counter.

With Cowbridge unable to stop the marauding pack, Pentyrch secured a further two tries taking the lead to 26-14.

Cowbridge finished the game with an improved final 10 minutes, competing in all areas of the game and their pressure being rewarded with yet another well-worked move finding the in-form Joe Davies on the wing.

This made the score 26-21, with the conversion by James Collingridge. Time, however, ran out for the visitors and the much-improved Pentyrch finished the game victorious.

CN

St Athan B bounce back with a win

COURTNEY GOODWIN, Kieran Ashton and Sean Whitelock fired St Athan B to A big win over second-placed Vale Madrid.

After a humiliating loss last week and the first team not in action, reserve team manager Paul Wolfe resisted the urge to make wholesale changes and only brought in Kieran Ashton, Craig Howells and Jake Sutch to replace injured Mark Pickering, Lewys Morgan and Seth Talbot.

Keeping faith with the majority of the side that got hammered paid dividends as the side set out to put things right. Saints started brightly and went close from both Craig Howells and Nicky Cleave.

Courtney Goodwin, back in the team after missing last week, was making a difference and it was the centre midfielder who gave Saints the lead.

The ball dropped invitingly to Goodwin 25 yards out and his low stinging drive beat the keeper.

Saints were buoyed and soon doubled their lead. Marauding full back Gavin Morgans whipped a tantalising cross into the area, Cleave saw his effort blocked but the rebound fell to Ashton, who turned the ball in.

Saints very nearly made it three but Colin George saw his long dis trance effort cannon off the bar.

Saints went in at half-time 2-0 up against the odds, but Vale Madrid came out chasing the game in the second half and played more like a team second in the league.

Vale Madrid carved out several decent changes but couldn't find the target and when they did, Steve Holehouse in goal was in commanding form.

Vale Madrid finally found a way through – a sharp turn in the box saw their forward direct the ball past Holehouse into the net, a lifeline for the away side.

With Vale Madrid pushing for an equaliser, Saints switched formation and looked to counter. It was one of the counter attacks that proved decisive.

Scott Roberts' good work down the left found Howells who in turn played in Ashton. Ashton looked up and slid the ball through to youngster Sean Whitelock, clean in on goal, to calmly slot past the keeper and seal the win and a crucial three points.

A good outing from Saints with many players putting in impressive performances – Craig Howells, Kieran Ashton, Josh Howells and Courtney Goodwin all standing out.

Saints B will look to build on the performance as they play Barry Albion this week.

St Athan B: Holehouse, Morgans, J.Howells, Sutch, Richards, George, Goodwin, Burgess, Ashton, Cleave, C.Howells. Substitutes: Roberts, Whitelock, Wolfe.

HD

Reserves too strong for BV

LLANTWIT MAJOR AFC reserves completed a comfortable 5-0 win against BV as the win put pressure on league leaders Cadoxton.

Llantwit prepared for their second league home fixture missing six regulars while welcoming three first-time appearances for Lee Jennings, Hamish Anderson and Henry Dawson.

The game started with the home side keeping possession of the ball as the travelling side were happy to sit back.

After good interchanges with Josh Morgan and Sam Mawninney, the first goal came through Gethin Jennings, striking gold from a Josh Morgan pull back.

Jennings was soon in action to help with Llantwit's second as his left-to-right switch saw Morgan isolate his opposing number and square Dafydd James-Isaac to slot home his first of the season.

Shot after shot came agonisingly close as the reserves piled on the pressure, and Cain, Isaac, Jennings and Mawhinney all saw their efforts fly everywhere but the back of the net.

Thankfully, the third goal came from a piece of individual skill to get past the defender in the way then to calmly squeeze the ball past the keeper and Llantwit went into at half-time three goals up.

The second half saw Mawinney leave the field due to injury and Steve Piltcher was his replacement.

The match was beyond the battling BV who defended excellently to stop an embarrassing scoreline.

A free kick from the right hand side finally earned Llantwit a fourth as new boy Henry Dawson was in the best position to tap in from a lovely flick on from Hamish Anderson.

The fifth was on its way as shots rebounded off the post and the BV goalkeeper pulled off sensational saves.

Josh Morgan completed his hat-trick of assists with 10 minutes remaining, putting Jennings through as he smashed in his sixth goal of the season.

JT

WALES 18 ALL BLACKS 33

A 30TH STRAIGHT WIN FOR NEW ZEALAND OVER WARREN GATLAND'S MEN

A very different game, but the same result... THE ALL BLACKS FIND ANOTHER WAY TO BEAT WALES

by PHILIP IRWIN

Gareth Davies squeezes in for Wales' final try.

Rico Ioane goes over for the killer try after a stunning three-quarter move. ALL PHOTOS BY HUW EVANS AGENCY.

THIS writer was born in January 1953, so I am one of that rapidly-shrinking group of Welsh people who can claim that we beat the All Blacks in my lifetime.

Clearly, I don't remember it too well, but my father was there (or so he said).

Around the same time (1950) the 'Peanuts' cartoon strip began, and it had its own oval ball running joke.

Each football season, Lucy would take Charlie Brown out and offer to hold the ball – American football-style – so that Charlie could kick a goal. Then, she would pull the ball away at the last minute, leaving Charlie sprawled on the ground feeling disappointed and foolish.

Each year Charlie would find some chink of light – something that would persuade him that this year it would be different.

That just about sums up Welsh rugby's experience with New Zealand.

After all, if Welsh Charlie had been told that his team would have 65 per cent possession and 70 per cent territory, he would kicked that ball with renewed hope.

But the final score was 33–18. Five All Blacks' tries to two Welsh.

After the game, the experts were encouraging. Wales' new expansive game was developing, and the passing by the forwards had been excellent, and ball retention good.

Josh Navidi had a transformative game, one that pushed him up into a different league.

The attacking play was promising, although former Wales fly-half and TV pundit Jonathan Davies said that the backs needed to 'fix' opponents and run less laterally. Nevertheless, there was much to build on, and important injured players to return.

Warren Gatland, speaking after the game, said that failing to close down the two All Black wingers was a big issue.

That was indisputably true. Two tries were scored by the muscular Naholo on the right, and two by the brilliant Rico Ioane on the left.

Indeed, Ioane was involved in four of the tries. He made the midfield break for Naholo's first, slipping the ball to the electric Aaron Smith, who switched the ball out right to Naholo.

In the second half, it was Ioane's break down the left that saw three Welsh defenders tackle him, giving Lennert-Brown an unopposed run in after Ioane released the ball.

His own first try will probably give Dan Biggar an uncomfortable time until the Six Nations – wondering if Warren will want to look at another outside half, while Ioane's second was just stunning – as slick a move as you could wish to see, finished with real pace and power.

However, the worrying question is, if Wales did put extra efforts into shutting down the wings, would that just open up space for outside half Beaden Barrett and full back McKenzie? They both had quiet games, but with a little extra space, who knows?

Jonathan Davies went as far as to describe Barrett as "not interested" but he was there when needed.

Early in the game he raced back to clear up after a Welsh kick ahead and, in a reprise of last week's crucial tackle on Stuart Hogg, there was a moment, after 17 minutes when Hallam Amos seemed to be in the clear, only for Barrett to appear from nowhere to tackle him into touch.

Looking at my notebook, I can't recall a game when so much happened. In the first seven minutes we had Wales pressing constantly, Barrett racing back to foil that kick ahead, and then a three-minute period when Wales were well on top – but with no scrum half.

Rhys Webb left the field then for a head impact assessment, and was replaced by Gareth Davies, who had an excellent game, including scoring a try in the final 10 minutes when the All Black captain, Sam Whitelock, was in the bin.

Owen Williams was cool and calm throughout.

Halfpenny kicked a penalty after that first seven minutes, but you can't help feeling that a clear-headed Webb might have orchestrated a try.

The first half continued in that vein. Welsh pressure was punctuated by two All Black trips upfield to score Naholo's two tries. Each time he used his power to dismiss challenges from first Steff Evans, and then Leigh Halfpenny.

Would a George North on the left wing have made a difference? Who knows, but Steff Evans is contributing hugely to Wales' new style.

Wales scored a superb try of their own, straight from a lineout with Owen Williams as first receiver, with Dan Bigger on the run-around feeding Hallam Amos, who made a clean break before passing to the supporting Biggar, who put Scott Williams in.

It was a classic Welsh try, and Halfpenny's conversion attempt would have given Wales a half-time lead, but it stayed at 12–11 to the All Blacks.

The half time stats were amazing. Wales made 43 tackles and New Zealand 95. That disparity grew wider in the first four minutes of the second half, which once again was non-stop Welsh pressure.

My notebook showed (48 minutes) "Welsh handling v v good".

Then, at 55 minutes, it simply said "Exhausting game".

Sadly, the next entry was "Ioane, brilliant offload (or maybe lucky)". Either way, Lennert Brown was under the posts and it was 19–11. A cruel lack of reward for 20 minutes of excellent play by Wales.

Josh Navidi has moved up a level after his performance against the All Blacks.

Soon after, Ioane intercepted Biggar's pass and Charlie Brown was well and truly on his back, pondering what a cruel world it can be.

This week it's South Africa – without Wales' English-based players, as it's not an official international weekend. A 2–2 record would be acceptable, whereas a 1–3 return would cause more anguish.

Following Welsh rugby isn't easy.

One final thought – it strikes me that the All Blacks are over-doing the Haka these days. This year's went on so long I'm surprised there wasn't an interval.